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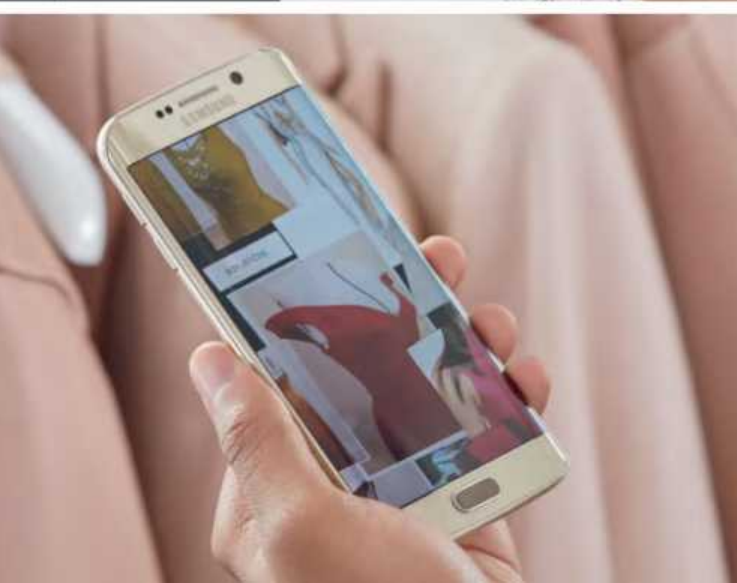
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Special section begins
on page **141**



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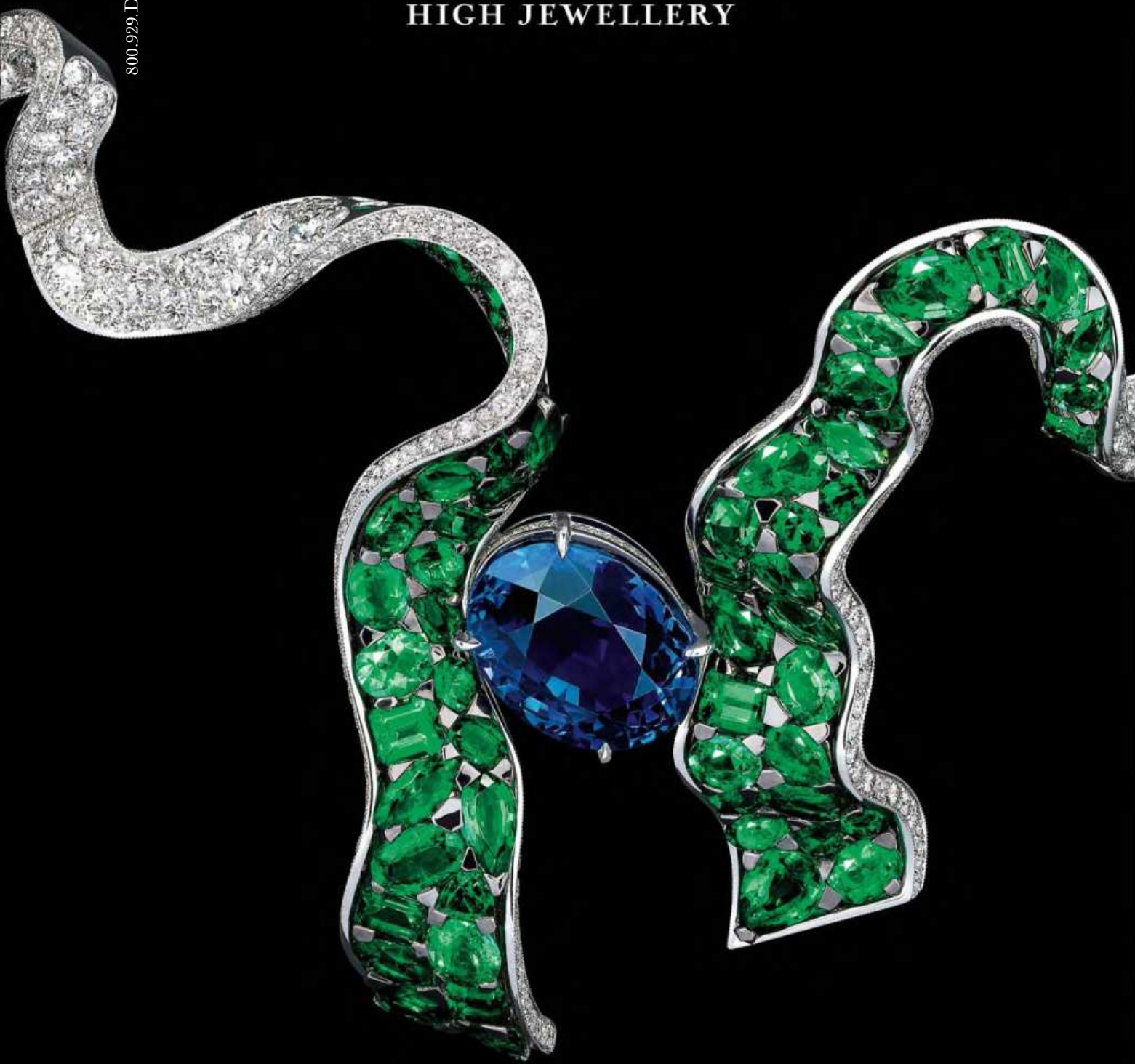




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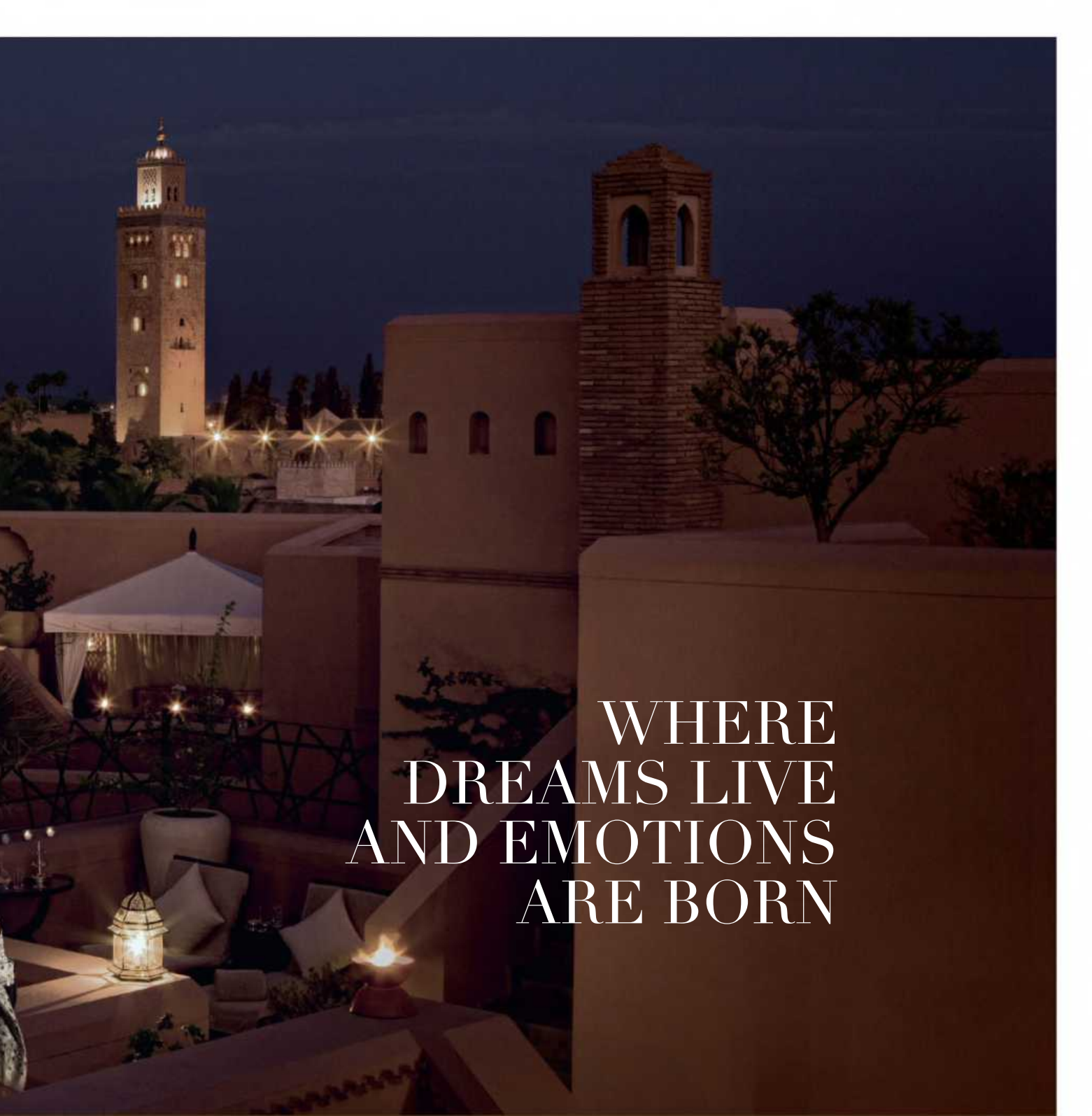
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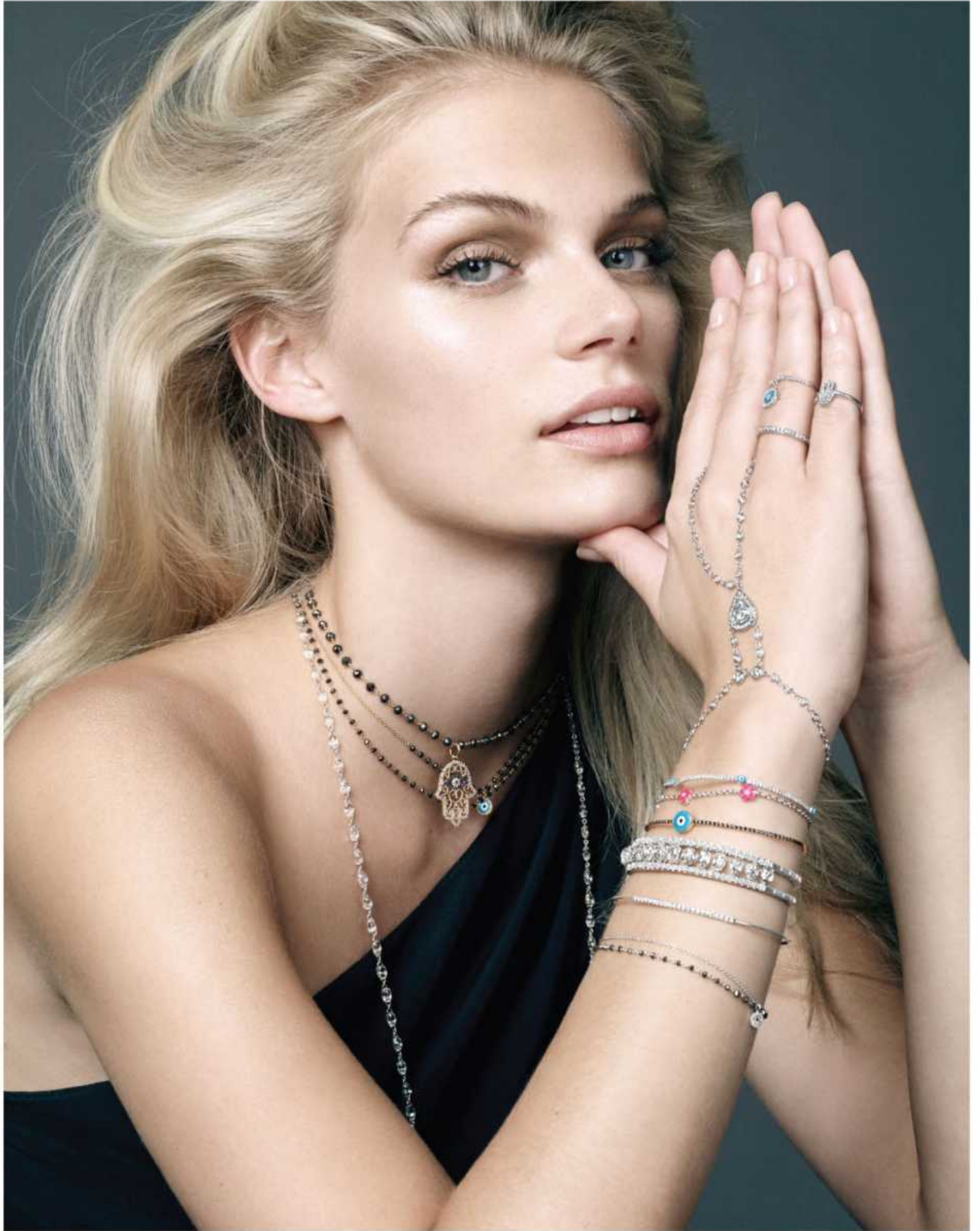
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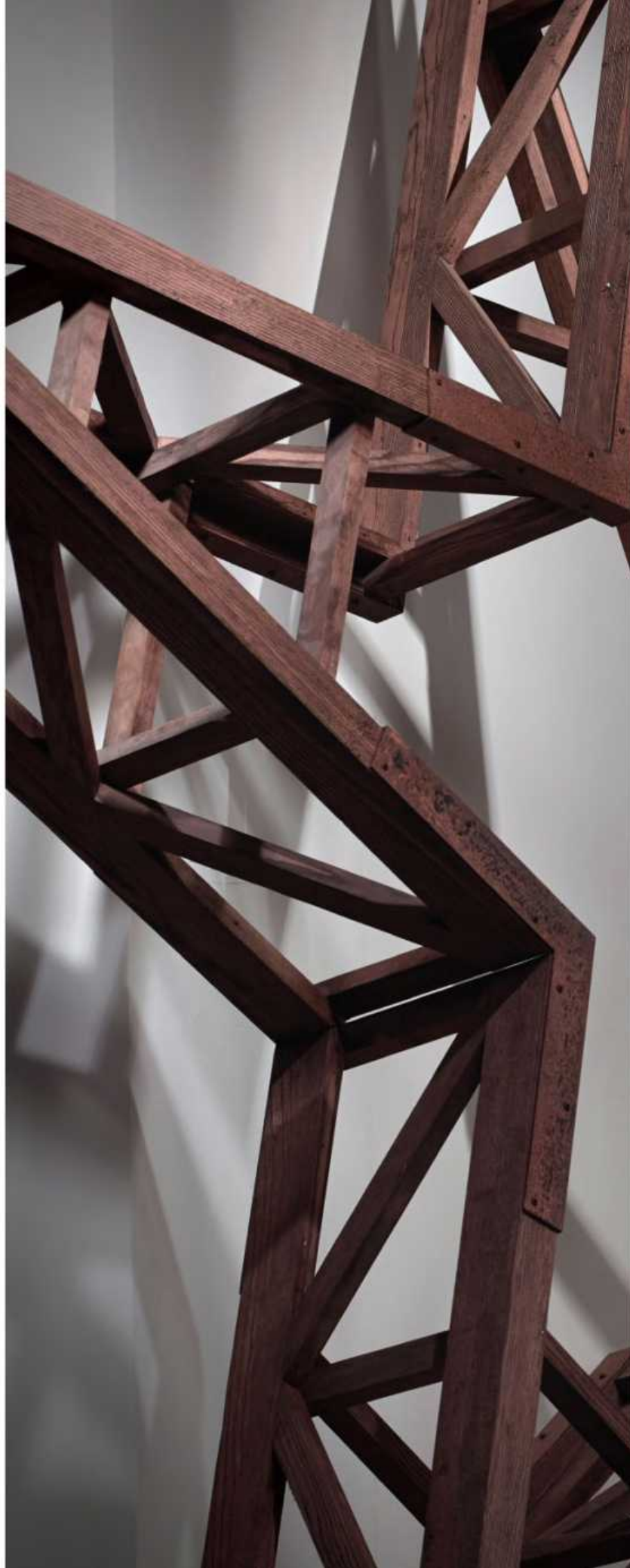
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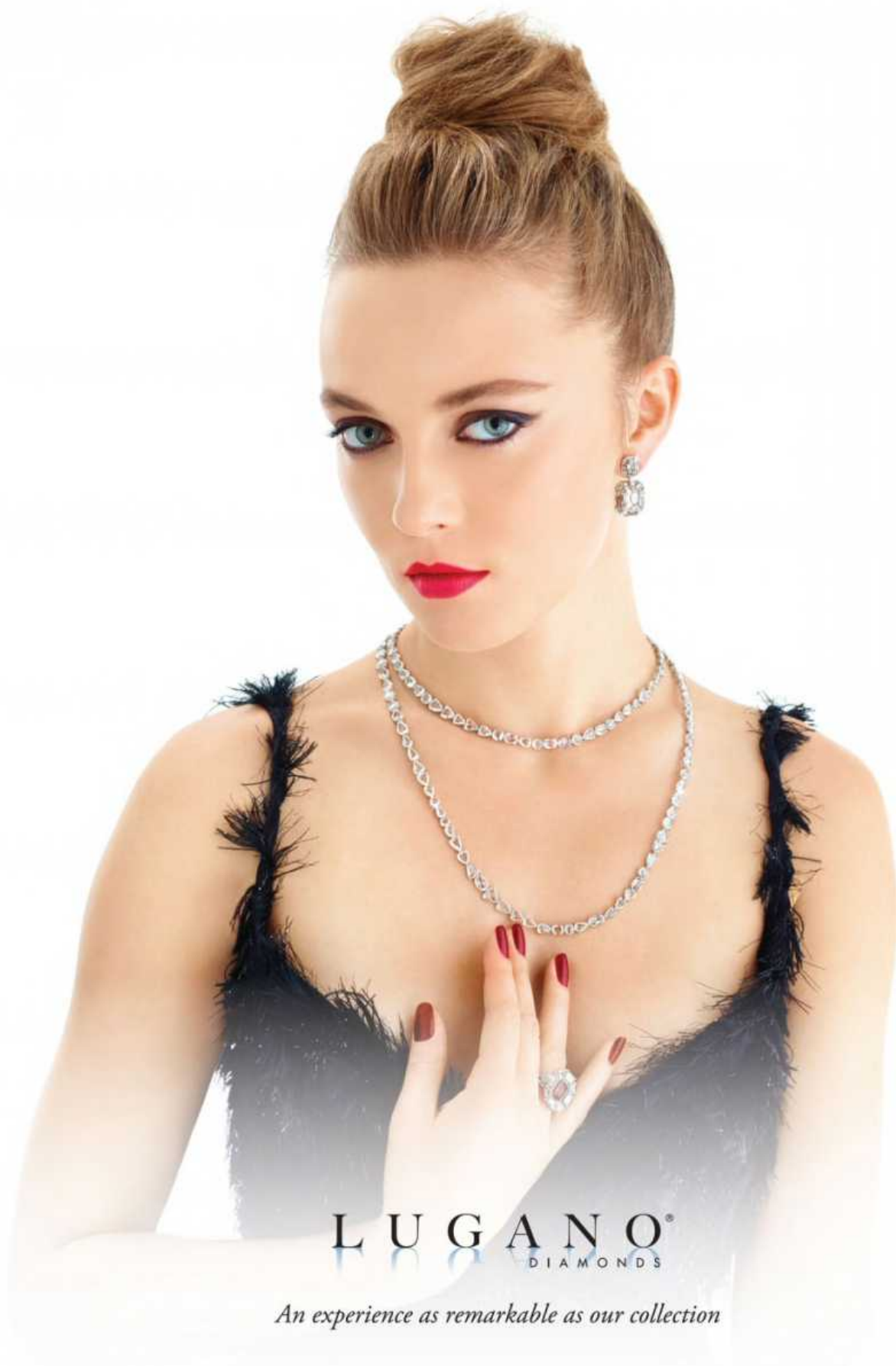
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BMW jumps ahead in the luxury-sedan race with its elegant and agile new 7 Series.

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THE ULTIMATE GIFT GUIDE

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Robb Report's 2015 holiday extravaganza highlights 31 rare and radical gift ideas, from an amphibious aircraft and a soaring submersible to a one-of-a-kind grand-touring car and an incomparable cruise.



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THERE ARE TWO
THINGS
IN THE WORLD
THAT LAST LONGER
THAN TIME.
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IS ONE OF THEM.



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM FOREVERMARK

R DECEMBER



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ON THE COVER

DEEPLIGHT DRAGON (PHOTO BY DAVID BUSH) AND HYSEK IO 45 MM SKELETON TOURBILLON WITH BLUE SAPPHIRE. INSIDE COVER: DEEPLIGHT DRAGON (PHOTO BY DAVID BUSH) AND AMALGAM FINE MODEL CARS' BUGATTI TYPE 57SC ATLANTIC (PHOTO BY JOE LAM).

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10 Craft Cocktails for the Holidays

Shake—or stir—up the festive season with these
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Make Your Pick for *Robb Report's* 2016 Car of the Year

In a recent automotive face-off, the world's 13 best new automobiles gathered in California to compete for the title of *Robb Report's* 2016 Car of the Year. The results will not be announced until the April 2016 issue, but RobbReport.com readers can review the contenders—and vote for a winner—now.

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RobbReport.com's Holiday Gift Guide

From top-shelf spirits to handmade treasures, our annual online guide offers up a carefully curated collection for holiday shoppers who appreciate that some ultimate gifts are small enough to fit under a tree.

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IN OUR RUSH during this season to give material expression to our regard for one another in the form of gifts (see “The Ultimate Gift Guide,” page 141), we are apt to forget the uncommon origins of this quite common tradition. The custom, of course, finds its prototype in the proverbial Three Kings, who were actually neither kings nor necessarily three: The Gospel According to Matthew does not enumerate the wise men, merely their offerings of frankincense, gold,

and myrrh. Yet these mysterious visitors from the east, who came to pay homage to the newborn in Bethlehem, have since furnished potentates and peers with encouragement for yuletide pomp and profligacy.

In 15th-century Florence, the Medici took their cue quite literally from this trio. Every fifth Feast of the Epiphany (or *la Befana*), members of that ruling house organized a pageant, the Cavalcade of the Magi, in which they and other Florentine nobles donned costumes of fantastic splendor and—swathed in silk turbans, glittering brocades, and ermine—made their pilgrimage

from the Palazzo della Signoria to the Church of San Marco. Having impressed the public with this solemn procession, the Medici, behind palace walls, abandoned themselves to elaborate rituals of gift giving.

In the 17th century, Grand Duke Cosimo II was particularly fond of this feast, and his carefully considered presents often contrasted staggering opulence with stinging vulgarity: He did not always aim to please. Once, for instance, he gave a court musician an onion, then a popular treatment for deafness, while a tipsy priest received an enormous flagon of water. By contrast, in 1620 Duke Ferdinando Gonzaga of Mantua, a relation, played a somewhat more generous joke on his Medici wife, Caterina: Five plain terra-cotta jars—each labeled with a moral precept hinting at its contents—contained a rosary, a clock, a jeweled flower, a gold chain, and (in the final jar, which was inscribed with the words “I have written that which I have written and I do not go back on my word”) a promissory note for a massive and

priceless jeweled collar called a *gargantiglia*.

The Italian fondness for pageantry and games found its way, like so many other niceties, to the English court in the form of the masque. The first such soiree was staged for the pleasure of Henry VIII in 1511—an especially spendthrift year for the king, who gave gifts totaling the immense sum of 800 pounds. The days of feasting, inaugurated with roasted swans and a rosemary-crowned boar’s head, culminated on Twelfth Night with quantities of spiced ale and with the king—in disguise and accompanied by 11 courtiers—entering the hall and asking the ladies in the audience, by turns, to dance. The promiscuity of these revels was perhaps heightened by the fact that the queen, Catherine of Aragon, had given birth to a son on New Year’s Day, the time for exchanging gifts. A pleased Henry named the child after himself and issued a proclamation extending the celebrations. The heir, however, did not last much longer than the festivities: He died seven weeks later.

Another tidings of joy came 21 years later, when Anne Boleyn, once excluded from Christmas courts but now queen herself, became pregnant. Though her daughter Elizabeth would not keep Christmas so merrily as her father, she kept it well. The Virgin Queen seldom dined in public, owing in part to her bad teeth, which allowed her to chew only with difficulty; but during Christmas she made an exception, opening her purse and indulging her passion for theater as well as the presence of male courtiers, who were induced to abandon their families for the holidays and while their time away with card games, dancing, and endless plays. As Elizabeth was particularly fond of the latter, Ben Jonson was regularly detained for Christmas, and William Shakespeare hurriedly wrote *Twelfth Night* in 1601 for performance at court. Guests were expected to give grandly to Her Majesty, who would reciprocate according to her pleasure. Despite court rivalries for Elizabeth’s favor, not all royal gifts were to be envied: In 1586, Mary Stuart, a symbol for Catholics who wished to see a monarch of their faith returned to the English throne, received from her Tudor cousin a truly one-of-a-kind present—a warrant of execution for treason. Of course, this Christmas wish did not officially arrive until February, when Mary was beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle. But it was the thought that counted. **R**

BRETT ANDERSON

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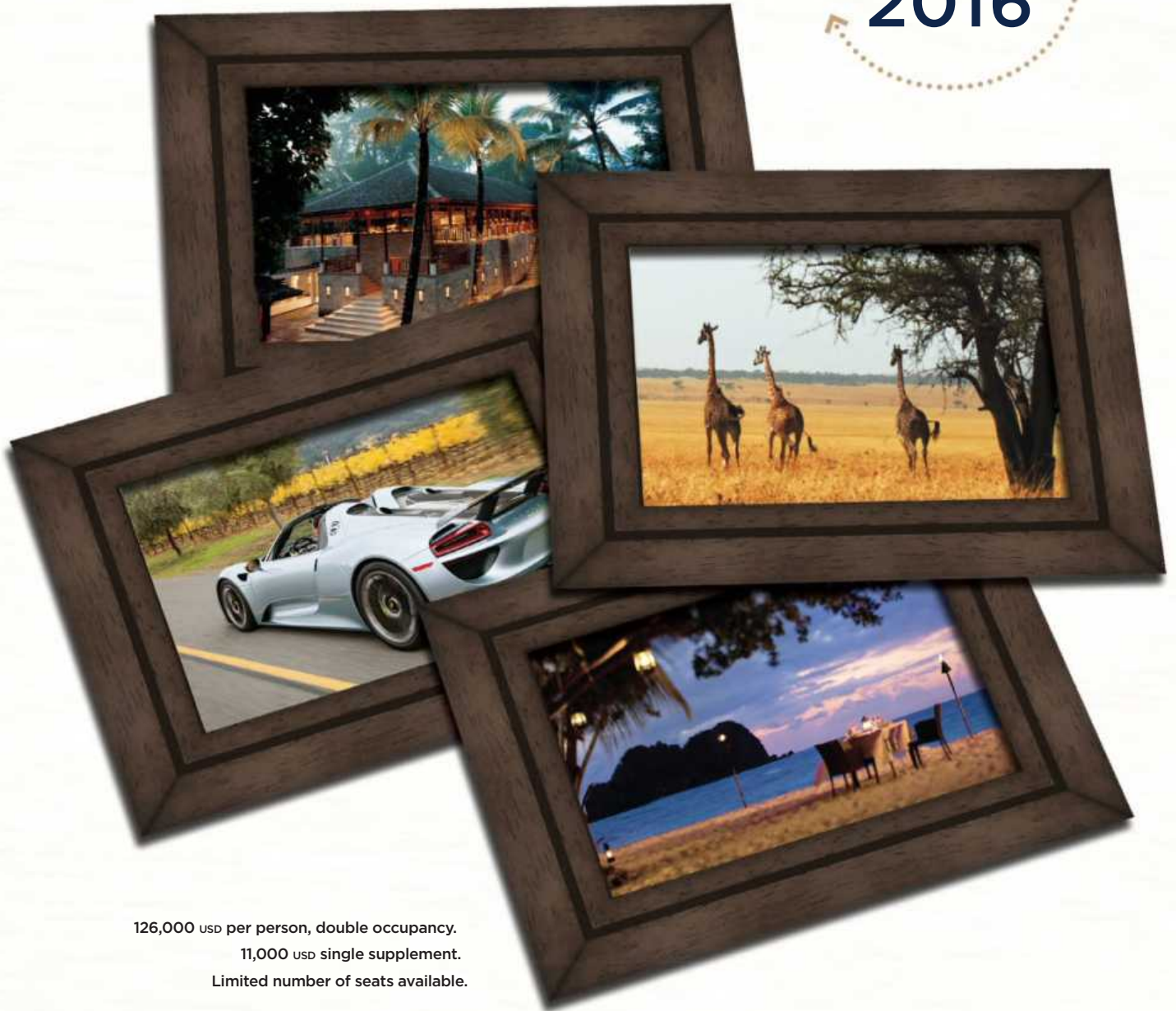
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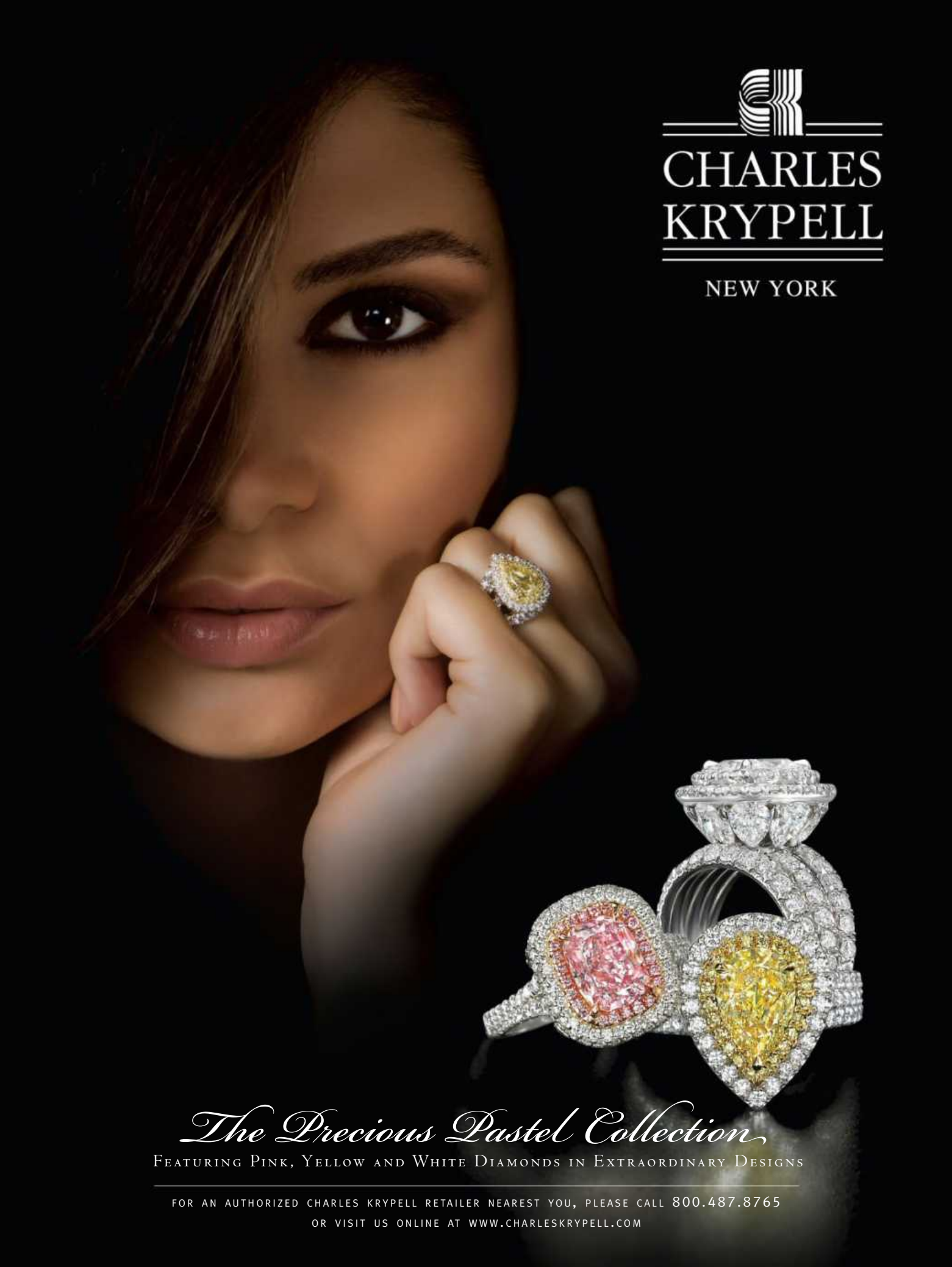
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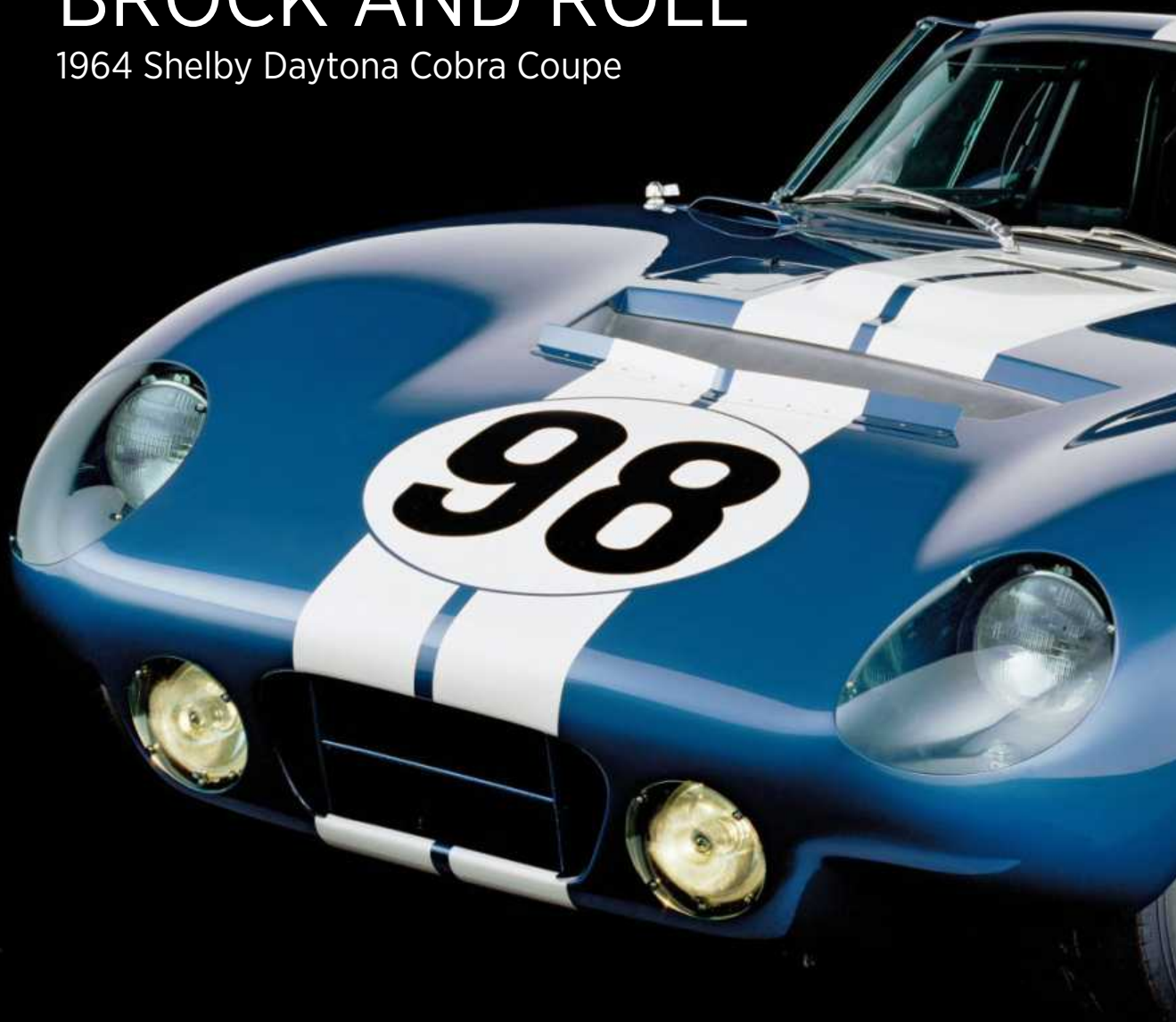
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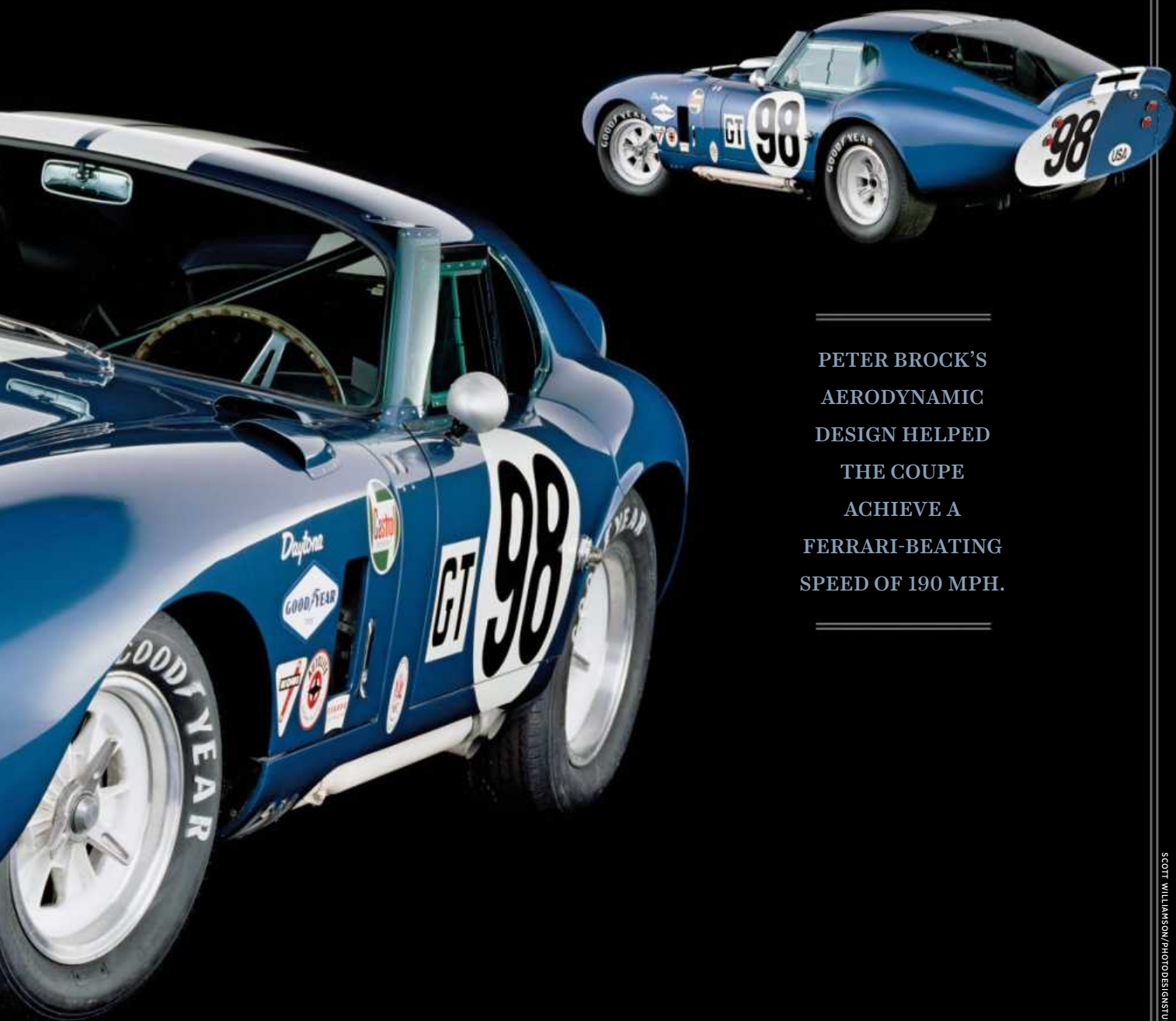
1964 Shelby Daytona Cobra Coupe



C ARROLL SHELBY TOOK aim at Ferrari's 250 GTO when he and his scrappy team rolled out the Daytona Cobra Coupe for the 1964 racing season. Like an early version of Shelby's AC-bodied Cobra roadster, the coupe was powered by Ford's 289 cu in V-8, which was topped with a quartet of Weber carburetors. The newer car, however, had aerodynamic advantages

over the roadster, which was limited in top speed because of its open architecture. The coupe was penned by then-24-year-old Peter Brock, and with development driver Ken Miles at the wheel, it achieved a Ferrari-beating speed of 190 mph when the design was fully sorted.

After finishing second in its class in the 1964 FIA World Sportscar Championship, the Daytona Cobra



PETER BROCK'S
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Coupe won the 1965 title. Shelby American is building 50 Daytona Cobra Coupe continuation cars to commemorate the golden anniversary of that victory. The first of those cars is featured in *Robb Report's* Ultimate Gift Guide ("Continued Success," page 169).

Only six examples of the original Daytona Cobra Coupe were produced. The first was built at Shelby's shop in

Venice, Calif.; the bodies for the others were made by Carrozzeria Gransport in Modena, Italy. The program was curtailed in 1965 when Ford enlisted Shelby to work on its GT40 racecar. With his focus shifted, Shelby sold some of the Daytona Cobra Coupes for less than \$7,000 apiece. Today those cars are valued by market experts at nearly \$30 million. —ROBERT ROSS



BRANCHING OUT

A feeling for nature is at the root of this expansive design.



VISIT TO an antiques shop outside Bangkok led Stephen Termviriyakul to a faded Japanese painting depicting a cherry blossom festival, and at the painting's center was a tree with wide-reaching branches. That mesmerizing form planted the seed of inspiration for the Bonsai cabinet (\$16,850). Termviriyakul's design, which is limited to just 26 examples, is nearly 6 feet long and shares attributes

with other furniture from his Bangkok-based company, Muse Design (muse-th.com). "Most of Muse's designs show the shape, color, and texture of natural things," he says. "We always try to bring nature into the client's life. Human beings, especially in today's busy world, love getting closer to nature."

Close inspection of the burnt-oak cabinet reveals the handiwork in the exterior's leaves and blossoms



“WE ALWAYS TRY TO BRING NATURE INTO THE
CLIENT’S LIFE. HUMAN BEINGS, ESPECIALLY IN TODAY’S
BUSY WORLD, LOVE GETTING CLOSER TO NATURE.”

—STEPHEN TERMVIRIYAKUL, MUSE DESIGN

and in the interior’s gnarled branches, some of which are shelves. A wax sculpture of the tree precedes a plaster mold that ultimately is cast in bronze. Inside, the cabinet glows with a paint made from powdered gold—a sheen that recalls the gilding on Buddha statues and Thai temples. “When you open the cabinet,” Termviriyakul says, “you can feel a dramatic, warm gold color come out.” —CAROLYN MEERS



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BEARING THE CLOVERLEAF emblem and name that identify the brand's fastest and most powerful model variants, the forthcoming **Alfa Romeo Giulia Quadrifoglio** (alfaromeousa.com) was introduced in Italy in June and is expected to arrive in the United States in 2016. According to Alfa Romeo, the sedan posted the fastest lap time ever for a four-door production car at the Nürburgring, the racetrack in Germany that serves as a proving ground for high-performance vehicles. The Giulia Quadrifoglio is powered by a 505 hp biturbo V-6 that enables a zero-to-60-mph time of 3.8 seconds. It will be the first Alfa Romeo sedan sold in the United States in 20 years. The company has yet to announce the car's price. —ROBERT ROSS

**LEVEL BEST**

The master suite is divided among three floors.

Seek and Enjoy

SET TO LAUNCH this spring is the English-made **Sunseeker 95** luxury performance yacht (sunseeker.com), which features an unusual triplex configuration for the master stateroom. From the bedroom on the main deck, a staircase leads down to a mid-level private dressing area and then to a bathroom on the lower deck. Aft of the bedroom is a saloon that contains a dining area and a lounge area. The yacht's four-cabin

configuration, which sleeps eight passengers, includes a full-beam stateroom on the lower deck and two smaller cabins aft. Each cabin has an en suite bathroom. The flybridge is spacious enough for a bar, an optional hot tub, and plenty of seating. When equipped with the most powerful engine option, the 95 can cruise at 24 knots and reach a top speed of 28 knots. The starting price is about \$9.5 million. —LARRY BEAN

INTO THE RED ZONE



A single crew for each aircraft and new-model jets with specially designed interiors are among the features of the recently launched **Red Label by Flexjet** fractional-ownership and lease program (flexjet.com). The interiors, which Flexjet calls the LXi cabin collection, are distinguished by leather-and-suede seats, warm color palettes, and seating configurations that are unique to Flexjet aircraft, such as a fold-down ottoman in the Learjet 75. All of the aircraft in the Red Label fleet are under 5 years old, and they soon will include the newly certified Embraer Legacy 450 midsize jet. Flexjet has placed an order for an undisclosed number of the aircraft and expects to begin taking deliveries in 2016. —L.B.



TENDER OR TOURER

WITH ITS ABILITY to accommodate eight passengers and reach a top speed of 38 knots, the new **Invictus 280TT** (invictusyacht.com) can be used as transport to and from a larger yacht. But with a bathroom, a shower, and a dressing room below deck, and a stove top, a refrigerator, and cabinets behind the helm, it can serve just as well as a day cruiser. The 280TT is 28 feet long and has a beam of just over 9 feet. It is furnished with a U shaped settee at the bow and a sunbathing cushion near the stern. The starting price is about \$93,000. —L.B.



ROBERTO COIN

Thinning the Heard

AT LESS THAN 1 nanometer, the diaphragm of the **HiFiMan HE1000** planar magnetic headphones (hifiman.com) is the thinnest ever made. An asymmetrical magnetic circuit powers the diaphragm and helps eliminate virtually all sonic distortion. The headphones, which are priced at \$3,000, also feature an open back design and ear cup grilles made from lightweight alloy. They deliver a lifelike soundstage and an abundance of high frequency headroom capable of registering musical nuances lost by headphones with less efficient designs. The comfortableness of the calfskin headband and velour lined foam ear pads will invite long listening sessions.

—BAILEY S. BARNARD



SIGHTS TO BEHOLD

THE ITALIAN coachbuilder and design firm renowned for crafting limited edition models for automakers ranging from Aston Martin to BMW to Ferrari has lent its sense of style to binoculars.

The **Leica Ultravid 8×32 Edition Zagato** binoculars (leica-camera.com) feature an outer shell made of aluminum, a favorite material for the firm's lightweight and aerodynamic auto designs. Hundreds of fine grooves have been milled into the surface of the shell, and around each of the front lenses the aluminum has been anodized to form a red ring inscribed with the Zagato brand name. The binoculars are priced at \$3,500. —L.B.



Waxing Moon

THE HIFIMAN HE1000S and other high-quality headphones cannot perform at their intended levels when plugged directly into an iPod or a system with insufficient amplification or signal conversion. The **Moon by Simaudio Neo 230HAD** (simaudio.com) is a dedicated headphone amplifier, line-stage preamplifier, and digital-to-analog converter all in one, and it delivers premier-quality audio signals with extremely high levels of fidelity. The unit's converter supports digital files with resolutions as large as 32 bits/384 kHz and studio-grade Direct Stream Digital files. Its amp function outputs 1 watt per channel into 50 ohms, which is sufficient for all but the power-hungriest of headphones. The component is priced at \$1,500. —B.S.B.

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ELEMENTS OF STYLE

Stepping Out

EVENING SHOES are no longer just for formal occasions. Men are turning to fanciful footwear for every day, pairing them with denim, for instance, or sleek trousers and a sport coat. “Men don’t have a lot of wardrobe choices, and shoes are one of the few ways they can play a little,” says the Dutch shoe designer **Louis Leeman** (louisleeman.com), who creates his signature velvet loafers in numerous variations, including the white-gold-studded (\$995) and chevron-patterned (\$936) models shown here. Other easy-to-wear styles with elegant flair include the **Pierre Corthay Arca** (\$1,750, corthay.com), a patent-leather shoe with gold piping, and such options from **Ralph Lauren** (ralphlauren.com) as a patent-leather shoe with ribbon laces (\$1,100) and monogrammed velvet slippers (\$650). —JILL NEWMAN



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ROYAL TREATMENT

MERINO SHEEP EARNED the sobriquet “the gift of kings” in the 18th century, when Charles IV of Spain gave several of the fine woolled animals to fellow royalty in other European nations. Today a wool called the Gift of Kings is the newest material enticement from the luxury clothier **Loro Piana** (loropiana.com). The superfine wool (12 microns in diameter) graces a limited series of outerwear, sweaters, and scarves, including this Yorkshire jacket (\$23,785) and burgundy scarf (\$2,875). —ANUSH BENLIYAN

True West

DESIGNER ELISE FIFE presents an American West aesthetic in her new **Albion Thorne** collection (albionthorne.com). Handmade in New York, the line includes this wool twill shirt with decorative panels of Italian lambskin (\$1,350). “Our pieces are hand tailor-made with exquisite textural details not commonly found in menswear,” says Fife, whose design embellishments include suede fringe, corduroy, brocade, and custom leather components modeled after motifs found on antique Western saddles.

—CAROLYN MEERS



EVENING ELEGANCE

These three formal-wear giants understand it's all in the details.



CANALI

Purple lapels provide eye-catching contrast to this sleek wool-and-mohair tuxedo. canali.com



RALPH LAUREN

This silk jacquard jacket's shawl collar puts sophisticated style front and center. ralphlauren.com



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Taking Things Slo

IN SEPTEMBER, **Slowear** (slowear.com) opened its first U.S. store (its 20th worldwide), on Prince Street in New York's SoHo neighborhood, and men flocked to the location—presumably seeking pairs of its Incotex trousers, which have a reputation for being some of the most comfortable, best fitting pants on the market. Once inside, the men may well have discovered that the Italian company's three other brands—Zanone, Glanshirt, and Montedoro—also present timeless pieces of artisanship by small European workshops. Says company president Roberto Compagno, "We offer durable, lasting classic clothes that have an elegant yet informal style." —J.N.



Secret Service



AFTER MORE THAN 50 years in business, the Parisian tailoring house **Camps de Luca** (campsdeluca.com) still keeps a discreet profile. Each patron is measured by either owner Marc de Luca, whose father founded the business, or one of his two sons. It takes about 80 hours for the de Lucas and their company's master tailors to hand cut and sew a single suit (from about \$7,360). "When a suit is cut and sewn right," notes Julien de Luca (shown with his father), "the man projects a sense of confidence." —J.N.

CASE GOODS

ALTERNATIVES TO THE classic briefcase are on offer from **H.L. James** (hljames.com), a New Jersey-based men's luxury goods company. The brand's American alligator bags include the backpack (\$35,000) and toiletry case (\$3,495) shown here. Handcrafted by artisans in the company's Tuscan atelier, each drum-dyed piece is hand stitched in silk thread, lined with matching calfskin leather, and adorned with brass hardware and a sterling silver-capped alligator tooth. Custom orders are also possible. —A.B.



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**BALI HIGH**

Mandapa's signature restaurant, Kubu (above), and open-air lobby pavilion (right) overlook the rushing Ayung River.

**GRAND OPENING**

Spirit of Bali

THE VILLAGE OF Ubud is the epicenter of Bali's Buddhist culture, where ancient temples rise from forests filled with sacred trees. The best way to tour the town and its mystical surrounds is from the back of **Mandapa's** (ritzcarlton.com) vintage Volkswagen 181, a model that served as transport for the Indonesian island's mayors during the 1960s and '70s.

Opened in September as Ritz-Carlton's third Reserve property, Mandapa is a cultural marvel in its own right. Situated on a tiered rice plantation on the edge of the Ayung River, the resort resembles a small village of 25 thatched villas and 35 suites. Guests enter the property through a bright-orange *candi bentar*, the traditional gate leading to a Balinese temple. Each accommodation is attended by a *patih*, or personal butler, and decorated with handwoven batik textiles and colorful murals painted by local artists. A spa, three restaurants, and a swimming pool overlook the rice fields and rushing river.

Should a trip in the resort's VW inspire a spiritual awakening, guests can visit the Pengiasan Temple. The 200-year-old landmark sits on the grounds of Mandapa, perfectly preserved among sacred trees. —JACKIE CARADONIO



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GRAND
OPENING

Fantasy Camp



THE DEBUT OF **Singita Ebony Lodge** (singita.com) in 1993 forever changed the face of the African safari, bringing a high style, low volume formula to South Africa's Sabi Sand Reserve. More than 20 years later, Singita is unveiling a new look for its pioneering lodge. Designed by Boyd Ferguson formerly of the firm Cécile and Boyd—the camp reopened in June with a contemporary style that blends modernized campaign furnishings with bold patterns and fabrics. In the 12 cantilevered suites, walls have been replaced with canvas and glass, allowing for seamless vistas of the surrounding savanna and Sand River. Guests can expect Big Five encounters whether exploring Singita's 45,000-acre reserve on game drives or lounging on their suite's private deck. Following a day in the bush, relaxation comes in the form of bonfire wine tastings and lantern-lit dinners under the stars. —MICHELLE SNADDON

SIMPLY
IRRESISTIBLE

Inspirato is officially seaborne: The U.S.-based travel club with a portfolio of more than 450 luxury residences launched the 80-foot cruising yacht **Irresistible** (inspirato.com) in August. Custom-made by the Florida-based shipyard Monte Fino, the three-stateroom yacht (priced from \$7,000 per night, all inclusive) will ply the waters of the U.S. and British Virgin Islands, taking passengers to such destinations as the Virgin Gorda Baths and Scrub Island. On board, as many as six passengers will enjoy



a chef's kitchen, a dining room, a spacious outdoor deck, and a personal stash of kayaks, snorkeling gear, and other water toys. —J.C.

GRAND
OPENING

COUNTRY CLUB



LONDONERS HAVE LONG retreated to the quaint cottages of the Cotswolds for rustic weekend getaways. With the opening of the **Soho Farmhouse** (sohofarmhouse.com), visitors to the area can now relish the English countryside with a dose of city style. Located 90 minutes northwest of London by car, the 100-acre estate features 40 rustic cabins, a seven-bedroom farmstead, and a four-bedroom cottage, all decorated with bespoke floral wallpaper and vintage furnishings. A pair of milk trucks turned mobile cocktail bars add a whimsical touch to the resort's rural surroundings, while tennis courts, stables, and a swimming pool offer outdoor entertainment. For the city slicker who prefers to enjoy the countryside indoors, the Main Barn—adorned with contemporary art and leather club chairs—channels the urban style of the Soho House's original London outpost. —FARHAD HEYDARI



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GRAND
OPENING

A Place in Provence

SET AMONG COBBLESTONED streets and cypress lined hills in the Luberon village of Gordes, **Hôtel Bastide de Gordes** (bastide-de-gordes.com) is the quintessential Provençal escape. The 39 room hotel, which sits within a cluster of 16th century granite ramparts, first opened in 2005. Following a \$22 million renovation, the property reopened in June with meticulously restored terra cotta floors, intricate wood paneling and frescoes, antique carpets and tapestries, and more than 4,000 works of art. Elegance permeates throughout, from the staff dressed as if for a belle époque fête to the restaurant helmed by the revered French chef Pierre Gagnaire. Warm days call for cocktails by the swimming pool surrounded by verdant Mediterranean gardens, while evenings are best spent on the terrace of the restaurant. —ANTHONY PEREGRINE



Wet All Over

A new wave of water-sports experiences from Bali to Bodrum.



DIVE IN ♦ The Mandarin Oriental, Bodrum (shown at left; mandarinoriental.com), is opening up the wonders of the Aegean Sea with its new Diving into the Eternal Blue package. Introduced in October and priced from about \$780 per person per night, the experience includes accommodations at the 109-room resort and two 40-minute dives with an instructor.

BREAKING OUT ♦ The Australian outfitter **Tropicsurf** (tropicsurf.net) opened its first Indonesian outpost in June at the **Four Seasons Resort Bali at Jimbaran Bay** (fourseasons.com). Experienced surfers can explore Bali's best breaks on advanced "surfari" expeditions, while novices can

kick back on the tranquil waves of Jimbaran Bay (priced from \$110 per person per hour).



SAILS UP ♦ In June, St. Lucia's **Capella Marigot Bay Resort and Marina** (capellahotels.com) debuted its new sailing academy, offering one- to five-day programs. Led by a certified sailing crew, the private lessons (priced from \$1,300 per person) take place aboard a wooden monohull yacht and include instruction on knot tying, steering, and reefing. —KELSEY ROBERTSON

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REFINED DESIGNS

Spheres of Influence

VASCO DA GAMA is a driving force in the design of the new **Montblanc Tourbillon Cylindrique Geosphères NightSky Limited Edition** (montblanc.com), the brand's latest timepiece to reference the Portuguese explorer. In the late 15th century, he embarked from Lisbon on a series of voyages that mapped a sea route linking Europe and Asia, and that historic journey has inspired the dial's two global halves: one representing the north and one the south, both engraved and hand painted beneath a starry sky of aventurine. Encircling the hemispheres are 24-hour discs that rotate clockwise and counterclockwise, enabling the wearer to discern the current time for any location worldwide. Both the local-time display, which is modeled on the compass rose at Lisbon's Padrão dos Descobrimentos monument, and the tourbillon's cylindrical hairspring—a key component of marine chronometers—speak to the timepiece's pioneering spirit. The white-gold edition (shown, about \$303,000) is limited to 18 pieces. —JAMES D. MALCOLMSON



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LET IT SNOW

“THE SNOWFLAKE IS a symbol of beauty, purity, and peacefulness,” says the New York-based jeweler Mish Tworowski, whose leisure time in Colorado has inspired the limited edition series of six jeweled snowflake designs from **Mish New York** (mishnewyork.com). “I feel that modern women love to wear something very luxurious in a bohemian way,” he says, “and this is very true in Aspen.” Each numbered snowflake (\$16,800 to \$36,000 as shown) can be worn as a brooch, as a necklace on a vintage ribbon, or as a bracelet on a custom made cuff (\$6,400 each, sold independently). The snowflakes are available in white, yellow, pink, or blackened gold with white or black diamonds. —JILL NEWMAN



Hot Dog

JEFF KOONS'S WHIMSICAL sculptures have appeared on the roof of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and in the halls at Versailles. Fans of the Pennsylvania-born artist's 10-foot-tall *Balloon Dog (Yellow)*, which is in private hands, can now display a limited edition version of that vibrantly colored stainless steel artwork at home. Priced at \$8,000, each 10.5-inch-tall, metallic finished porcelain piece from the French company **Bernardaud** (bernardaud.com) is signed by Koons and available exclusively through the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art (moca.org). Part of the proceeds of the sale will benefit the museum. —CAROLYN MEERS

Remaking History



TIFFANY & CO. has resurrected some of its iconic 1970s creations for the new **Out of Retirement** collection (available exclusively at Dover Street Market in New York, Tokyo, and London through January 2016, doverstreetmarket.com). “These pieces feel just as contemporary today as they were when they were first made,” says Tiffany’s design director, Francesca Amfitheatrof, who selected from the archives 17 jewelry and gift designs for the collection, including the cuffs shown here (gold and diamonds, \$32,000; gold, \$7,500). Also on offer: a playful sterling-silver pillbox shaped like a miniature Chinese-takeout container. —J.N.



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CELLAR NOTES

License to Chill

IN *GOLDENEYE*, AS James Bond speeds his Aston Martin DB5 along a mountain road, he suddenly screeches to a halt and flips open the car's console, revealing to his companion a hidden cooler containing a Champagne flute and an iced bottle of 1988 Bollinger.

A select few of us can also chill out with a magnum of 007's vintage of choice—free from the encumbrances of trained assassins. In honor of *Spectre*, the 14th Bond film to feature its bottlings, the 186-year-old Champagne house has released the **Bollinger Spectre Crystal Set** (\$9,500, champagne-bollinger.com). This limited edition of only 307 examples pairs a magnum of Bollinger's 1988 R.D. Extra Brut with a two-piece crystal ice bucket designed by Eric Berthés for the Saint-Louis crystal manufacturer of Lorraine, France. The bucket's etched lines culminate in a base shaped like the film franchise's signature gun muzzle, and the top is capped with Spectre's sinister octopus symbol.

—RICHARD CARLETON HACKER

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Lost and Profound



IN 2008, THREE veteran spirits executives teamed up to launch the Last Drop Distillers Limited, an independent bottling company that finds and releases rare whiskies that have inexplicably languished inside the warehouses and cellars of revered distilleries. The firm's first offering, a 1960 blended scotch found within three sherry casks at the back of Auchentoshan's cellar, yielded 1,347 bottles; but its latest discovery, a **1967 Glen Garioch Single Malt** (\$6,999, lastdropdistillers.com), is decidedly rarer: Only 118 bottles exist. The whisky was distilled during a time when Glen Garioch (pronounced "Glen Geery") floor-malted its own barley and dried it over peat fires, which imparted a subtle smokiness that is not present in the distillery's contemporary whiskies. This rare offering also features profound notes of fresh-cut hay, ripe apricots, and a touch of honey, and its long floral finish serves as a timeless tribute to one of Scotland's oldest distilleries. —R.C.H.



Nice Meets West

ALAIN DUCASSE whets Sin City's appetites with a Mediterranean splash at **Rivea** (alain-ducasse.com), his new restaurant on the 64th floor of the Delano Las Vegas. The restaurant features a refreshingly simple menu from one of Michelin's most decorated chefs, including Provençal caponata with capers and pine nuts, line caught striped bass in a minestrone reduction, and a crisp chickpea *socca* stuffed with classic niçoise salad (shown). This venue is the third for Rivea, which debuted in Saint Tropez two years ago before expanding to London last year.

The Las Vegas location evokes the French Riviera with its maritime palette of blues and yellows and an illuminated wall of cascading glass that mimics the sea. Ducasse also unveiled the adjacent **Skyfall Lounge**, which, like the restaurant, offers dazzling skyline views. —ANUSH BENLIYAN 

RISE AND SHINE

THE BRITISH DESIGNER Tom Dixon has reimagined every element of coffee service with **Brew** (tomdixon.net), an elegant new set made with satiny vacuum plated copper. The *cafetière*, a French press pot (\$185), particularly stands out for its futuristic look, sleek plunger, and looped handle. Other items include a milk pan (\$120) for café au lait, a dome topped biscuit tin (\$100), four stackable cups (\$130), and a round copper tray (\$220). Brew is a statement maker from one of Britain's most original designers; some of his previous pieces are on display in the permanent collections of London's Victoria and Albert Museum and New York's Museum of Modern Art. This collection seems destined to join them. —ELIZABETH BLAKE



TOP RIGHT: JAMES BEDFORD



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Street Cred

DIOR HOMME FLAUNTS AN EDGY TAKE ON CLASSIC EVENINGWEAR.

SITTING IN HIS office off the Champs-Élysées, Kris Van Assche looks sophisticated and cool in a tailored gray blazer and trousers with a crisp white T-shirt and argyle-print Adidas sneakers. It is a summer day in Paris, and the artistic director of Dior Homme is talking tuxedos—not the old standbys, mind you, but his vision of the classic evening suit for the modern man. “I picture a guy taking his girl to the opera for the first time and wearing formal pieces mixed with street wear, such as a tuxedo and sneakers or a formal jacket without buttons,” says Van Assche. “It’s about being elegant in a contemporary way.”

The 39-year-old Belgian designer, who shuttered his own eponymous menswear line earlier this year to focus on Dior Homme, is known for putting an edgy spin on classic styles, and his latest work fits that pattern. An example from the fall collection is the black-tie dinner jacket and tails—sans buttons. Says Van Assche, “I enjoy playing with coats from the past and making them into styles that are very much today.”

“Luxury clothes,” he adds, “can no longer be disconnected to a certain level of comfort and realism. For me, it’s about finding the right balance of being elegant in all circumstances but in a cooler, more dynamic way.”





❖
Dior Homme's collections incorporate check prints and casual touches, which are characteristic of designer Kris Van Assche's elegant but relaxed styling.
❖

To that end, Van Assche has brought familiar pinstripes and Prince of Wales check and houndstooth patterns to precision-tailored, slimmer suits, adding pops of color with yellow printed knitwear and topcoats. He has also incorporated sporty elements into Dior Homme's tailored clothing, fashioning such pieces as a sartorial denim suit, leather track pants, and utilitarian leather derby shoes with brightly colored soles. Thus he has furthered a hybrid that is showing up not only on the runways but also in the workplace. (Today's leading tech companies, for example, tend to embrace comfort-driven dress codes, which of course are cropping up outside that sector as well.) Perhaps the greatest challenge with this new style direction is maintaining a sense of sophistication.

So Van Assche, like other top menswear designers, is creating polished clothing that adapts to today's busier lifestyle—"This year is about the active, dynamic man; it's a reality check"—but his approach is distinctly personal. City life clearly has been an influence for Van Assche, as evidenced by such urban pairings as a black-leather parka over a formal suit, and a shearling jacket coupled with trousers. Christian Dior, who during his lifetime designed exclusively for women, has been a muse for him as well. "Mr. Dior had strict dress codes for himself, and he was always impeccably dressed," says Van Assche. "He loved to go to the theater and the opera and was often joined by his good friend Jean Cocteau."

With that, the blazer-and-Adidas-clad designer returns to the topic of Van Assche-style formalwear. (Think tuxedos paired with baseball caps, sneakers, and dried flowers in the lapels, or topped with waxed-denim coats.) "This guy I envision takes his girl to the opera," he says, "but he also drives up on a bike to pick her up." —JILL NEWMAN

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Getting Sirius

A WHISKEY CONNOISSEUR'S BRAND
BOTTLES RARE AND NOVEL SPIRITS.

IN 2011, THE whiskey collector Mahesh Patel (see “Cask Masters,” page 154) bottled a barrel of 1966 Glenfarclas and one of 1989 Glenfarclas from his personal cache to coincide with the launch of his Universal Whisky Experience, an annual multiday event in Las Vegas for fans of the spirit. The whiskies were well received at the Experience,

inspiring Patel to establish his own independent label, Sirius Intrepid Whisky Purveyors, which began operating about two and half years ago. The brand's name refers to Patel's expeditions to distillery warehouses on three different continents. “I wanted to come out with a high-end brand that reflected me and my lifestyle and my journey around the whiskey world,”

he says. “That's what it is: It's a reflection of my travels to find these hidden gems in those warehouses.”

While each whisky in the current Sirius collection is exceptionally aged and rare, the 1967 Dalmore (bottled in 2012) is noteworthy for the way in which it was matured. Before it was bottled, the single malt spent 44 years in a Caribbean-rum cask. “In those days,” Patel says, “cask management was very fluky. A cask was viewed purely as a vessel to age whisky.” Today, distilleries typically use sherry or bourbon casks for aging. If they use a rum cask, they use it for finishing instead. The Dalmore is priced around \$23,000 and sold through the Whisky Shop (whiskyshop.com).

The Dalmore also has an unusually high alcohol content of 60 percent. Nevertheless, it is smooth and slightly sweet, which Patel attributes to the decades of maturation in a rum cask. “You would think that it would deliver a serious burn, but it's really mellow,” he says. “It's a serious cask strength, but it still has the DNA of a Dalmore whisky from the 1950s and '60s—a dark marmalade backbone with deep fruity and dark-chocolate characteristics.”

Sirius produced only 89 bottles of the 1967 Dalmore, and when *Robb Report* went to press, the brand had sold more than half of them. Other current offerings are a 1966 Fettercairn single malt, a 1962 North British single grain, and a 1965 Carsebridge single grain. The inventories of those whiskies are also depleting, but new releases are on the way. Patel has about 30 casks of rare whiskeys in various distillery warehouses throughout the United Kingdom, the United States, and Japan that he will bottle and sell through Sirius in the coming years. “I have a nice treasure trove of very unique whiskeys from iconic distilleries that are maturing in their original warehouses,” says Patel. “Some of them are whiskeys that have never been seen before, including a few rare casks from lost distilleries. They will be very rare bottles for collectors to have.”

—SHAUN TOLSON

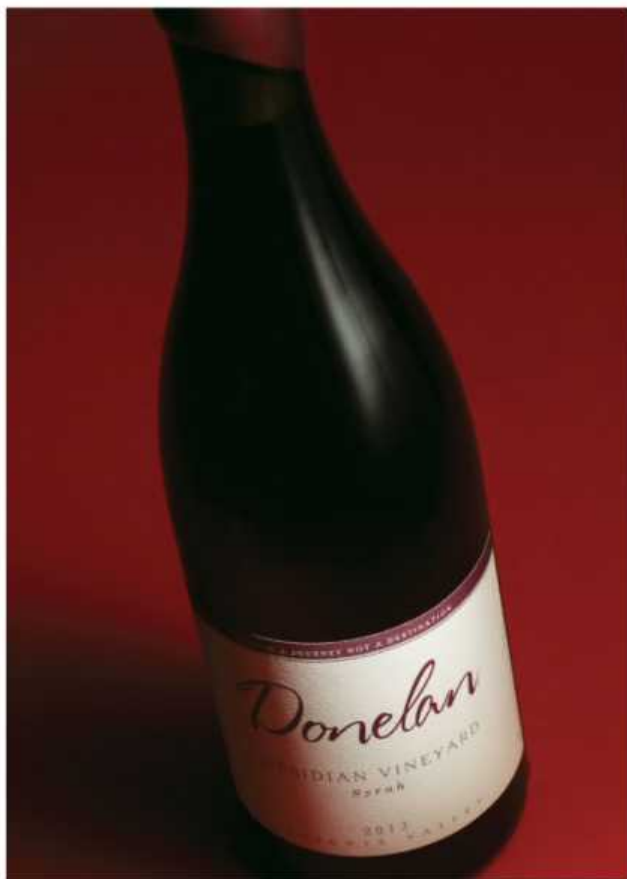
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siriuswhiskypurveyors.com

A woman with blonde hair and red lipstick stands in a doorway with ornate gold-colored frames. She is wearing a long, black, quilted fur coat with a wide collar and a black belt. She is also wearing long black gloves and a black sequined skirt. The background shows a red carpet and a chandelier.

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The Human Factor

RELATIONSHIPS DEFINE THE TERROIR-RICH WINES OF DONELAN FAMILY IN CALIFORNIA'S SONOMA COUNTY.

THE SAME ASSET that enabled Joe Donelan to prosper as vice president of A.T. Clayton—an East Coast enterprise supplying paper to catalog and magazine publishers—prompted him to launch a new career as vintner: a genuine affection for others. “Deep down, if I had to characterize myself,” says Donelan in his brash New England accent, “I love people. That is my whole makeup.”

The friendship that transformed the executive’s life was with Michael Fahey, the sommelier at Toppers Restaurant on Nantucket, where Donelan dined often in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Through

Fahey, Donelan sampled varietals and vintages from across the globe and developed a particular fondness for the best of Burgundy and the northern Rhône. This growing appreciation for fine wine found a practical outlet when Donelan invited some of his suppliers in the paper business on a junket to Napa Valley and Sonoma County and hired Fahey as a guide. “He was my shining star to sort of learn about the wine business,” Donelan says.

This expedition led to others—to California’s Central Coast and then to France, Italy, and eventually Spain, where Donelan honed his palate and his plans. Smitten by the idea

of creating his own wine, in 2000 he took on the young, aspiring winemaker Pax Mahle and his wife, Pam, as minority partners in a new Sonoma label, Pax Cellars, which produced single-vineyard Syrahs and Rhône-style blends. “I was the money guy,” says Donelan, “but I wanted to make great, great wine.”

The Pax Cellars releases received critical praise, but by 2008, Mahle and Donelan had parted ways. “We rebranded under our own name,” Donelan recalls, and from that point on, the emphasis at Donelan Family Wines was decidedly on family. “My oldest son, Tripp, has been working with me for 10 years, selling the wine direct. And Cushing joined the company three years ago to handle the marketing. Each of the boys really has a different role in the company.”

Family names are affixed not only to the winery’s office doors but also to the labels of its portfolio of small-production, site-driven Syrah, Grenache, Roussanne, Viognier, Pinot Noir, and Chardonnay. Cuvée Christine is named for Donelan’s wife, the family matriarch, while the exquisitely perfumed Genevieve’s Block Chardonnay honors his second granddaughter.

The undoubted star of the current 2013 vintage, however, most eloquently expresses familial pride through its astounding complexity and power. The 2013 Obsidian Vineyard Syrah (\$125) presents layered veins of aroma and flavors: Charcoal, espresso, liquid smoke, and citronella provide pungent accents to sweeter notes of blackberry, cassis, cured bacon, and maple sugar. Masterful efforts such as this have earned the winery some rather impressive scores, but relationships—with the soil and with his kin—remain the focus for Donelan. “It’s all about working with people,” says the patriarch, whose delight in collaborating closely with his sons finds expression in two forthcoming releases. “With the 2013 vintage, we’ll come out with Tripp’s Block, a Pinot Noir that’s very Pommard-like,” he exults. “And with 2014, we’ll have Cushing’s Block, which will be more like Chambolle-Musigny.” —BRETT ANDERSON

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Bubbling Over

MEXICO CITY'S EXUBERANT DINING SCENE HAS AN ELEGANT NEW ADDITION: LA TABLE KRUG.

FOR FOOD LOVERS in Mexico City, these are heady days. Mexican chefs who made their mark abroad are returning home to open ambitious restaurants such as Rosetta, where Elena Reygadas, formerly of New York and London, creates fine pasta and seasonal Mexican fare; and Sesame, an Asian street-food restaurant from Josefina Santacruz, who oversaw the kitchen at Pampano in New York City. Meanwhile, Jorge Vallejo, who earned his stripes at home in the kitchen of Mexico City's groundbreaking Pujol, has opened Quintonil, which is already rivaling Pujol as the city's most innovative dining destination. Mercado Roma, a stunning new market in the city's fashionable Roma neighborhood, has become a showcase for modern Mexican

ingredients, including organic corn tortillas, single-origin coffee from Oaxaca and Veracruz, exquisite local cheeses, and artisanal mezcals. And on wine lists throughout the city you will find selections from Baja, an emerging viticultural region.

Amid these culinary riches, one of the great French Champagne houses has established an intimate, elegant outpost. La Table Krug, a collaboration between Krug Champagne and the St. Regis Mexico City, opened earlier this year at the hotel. One of 10 Krug Table restaurants around the world, and the first in Latin America, La Table Krug seats only 12 diners a night for an 11-course meal (about \$210 per person) paired with the Grand Cuvée Champagne. The menu by chef Sylvain Desbois is French at heart, but driven by Mexican ingredients.

Each evening begins in a private lounge, where white-gloved servers offer ginger-lashed Glenmorangie cocktails and silver trays of canapés such as liquid foie gras. Guests are then invited into the dining room. "It is called La Table, so the table needed to be something special," says Adriana Angulo, brand manager for the Mexican division of LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, the parent company of Krug. The table is a long slab of white marble, raised high, and it leavens the formality of the meal with the conviviality of eating at the bar. Overhead are glass chandeliers shaped like Champagne bubbles; the walls are hung with colorful abstract artworks



meant to evoke the array of flavors in the Champagne.

During the meal, three glasses of Grand Cuvée are poured. "Krug Champagne is an explosion of flavors, and it has a special magic to adapt to different recipes," Desbois says. "Krug is so versatile that I have complete liberty to create; there is no limit when it comes to pairing and designing the perfect menu—it is all on the quality of the product and execution."

Among the dishes he has created are tender scallops from Ensenada with corn Mornay and black truffles served in a smoked corn husk, and a block of veal crust with Serrano ham (shown above). On a recent menu, Desbois experimented with a more interactive experience: the Krug Burger. "It's a burger that our guests finish cooking on the table," he says. "Obviously it's a wagyu beef burger, with foie gras and black truffles."

—MICHAEL BUSICO

La Table Krug, 888.625.5144, stregis.com

LEFT: JOHN RUSSO

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Yin and Yang

THREE NEW HOTELS BALANCE THE DUAL NATURE OF AN EMERGING CHINESE CAPITAL.

JUST A FEW years ago, Chengdu was considered a small town by Chinese standards. Known for its spicy cuisine, traditional teahouse culture, and the endangered panda bears that inhabit its surrounding mountains, the city seemed to operate at a more leisurely pace than cosmopolitan Beijing or Shanghai. Today, however, travelers arriving in the Sichuan capital discover a bustling city of gleaming skyscrapers, fashionable boulevards, and 7.5 million people, where trendy teahouses and restaurants border boutiques from Hermès, Chanel, and just about every other international luxury brand.

Though business is booming in Chengdu, the culture of long walks along the Funan River and even longer lunches over a Sichuan hot pot remains the local way of life. Capturing this polarity—Chengdu's motto could be “live fast, play slow”—is a trio of new luxury hotels located in and around the city.



The St. Regis Chengdu is the first of the capital's new guard, debuted in September 2014 near Tianfu Square. The 279-room hotel (priced from \$275 to \$9,500) offers many a nod to its singular setting, from the cherry-blossom-patterned carpets in the guest rooms to the Sichuan-tea bathing ritual at the Iridium Spa. In the Drawing Room lounge, the signature Chuan Mary

The Temple House (left) and St. Regis Chengdu (below) bring a new standard of luxury to China's Sichuan capital.

brings a local twist to the traditional St. Regis Bloody Mary with freshly crushed Sichuan pepper and spicy confit chili.

A five-minute drive east of the St. Regis is the Temple House, a beautifully restored, century-old stone structure that was once part of the Daci Temple complex. Guests enter the hotel—which in July became the third property in the Hong Kong-based Swire Hotels' House Collection—through a thick bamboo courtyard dating to the Qing Dynasty. The 100 guest rooms and 42 residences (from \$300 to \$7,000) are, by contrast, contemporary in style, with minimal furnishings and sleek black-lacquer lattice-work. Still, history and tradition pervade the property, which includes a monastery-turned-spa, a teahouse, and a woven bronze facade inspired by local brocade tapestries.

Roughly 40 miles from Chengdu's city center, the Six Senses Qing Cheng Mountain resort also opened in July, in a forested

region considered to be the birthplace of Taoism. A residual serenity lingers over the lush resort, where the 113 natural-hued accommodations (from \$335 to \$2,130) range from spacious suites with courtyards or terraces to two-bedroom pool villas. Guests can explore the area on hikes in the mountains and day trips to Dujiangyan (the point of entry to the Silk Road trading route). For those in

search of a slower pace, the Six Senses also offers monastery visits, tai chi lessons, calligraphy classes, and the ancient massage therapy of *gua sha*. —SANDRA RAMANI

Six Senses Qing Cheng Mountain, sixsenses.com; **St. Regis Chengdu,** starwoodhotels.com; **Temple House,** thetemplehousehotel.com



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High Rollers

TREK TRAVEL TAKES CYCLISTS TO THE TOP IN STYLE.

IF YOU ARE going to do the climb,” Wiebe Moeys told me, “you should skip wine with lunch.” Moeys, a guide on my Trek Travel cycling trip through Tuscany and the Italian Riviera, offered wise but disheartening counsel—especially considering we were at a charming outdoor trattoria in the medieval hill town of Montecarlo, not far from the Chianti region. While I managed to abstain from the bounty of the surrounding vines, I could not resist a bowl of hearty wild-boar stew with polenta. The dish was as rich as it was delicious—and no better for a climb than a glass of wine.

Hard work and indulgence strike a balance on any itinerary with Trek Travel, a luxury outfitter that leads cycling trips throughout Europe, North America, South



America, and Asia. Launched in 2002 by the owners of Trek Bicycles—a Wisconsin-based manufacturer known for producing the road bikes that several cyclists have ridden to titles in the Tour de France and other prestigious races—the travel company takes

❖
Trek Travel's Cinque Terre itinerary leads cyclists from the winding roads of Tuscany to the cliffs of the Italian Riviera.
❖

clients everywhere from the cobblestoned streets of Barcelona to the mountain ranges of Chile. This year the company also began offering its new One Collection trips, each of which is based out of a single locale, such as Tennessee's Blackberry Farm or a private villa in Spain.

My six-day Italian itinerary with Trek Travel began in the Tuscan town of Lucca, where the rolling hills dotted with 16th-century ramparts were as picturesque as they were challenging on two wheels. Daily rides of up to 29 miles or more took me from Media Valle del Serchio (the hometown of the Italian cyclist Mario Cipollini) and Pietrasanta (where Michelangelo unearthed marble for his sculptures) to Cinque Terre's villages of Corniglia and Vernazza. Each day, I clipped into one of the Trek Domane 5.9 bicycles, which sported a carbon-fiber frame and electronic shifting for easier climbing and more speed. Each night, I rested in the region's finest accommodations, including Il Bottaccio (an 18th-century Tuscan mill converted into an elegant estate) and Tenuta San Pietro (set within a restored 16th-century country house).

After my teetotaler's lunch in Montecarlo, I followed Moeys on our ascent of hilly San Pietro, slowly grinding my way up switchback after switchback to arrive high above the hamlet. A pause at what appeared to be the top revealed that our climb had only begun. Hopping back on the saddle—with my lunch still weighing me down like an anchor—I resumed my push up the 21-degree incline. When I finally reached the summit, I was exhilarated not just by my success but by the reward that awaited back at the bottom of the hill: a well-earned glass of Chianti. —SCOTT ARMSTRONG

Trek Travel, trektravel.com



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❖
The Gainsborough Bath Spa brings contemporary comforts to Bath's historic thermal springs.
❖



Springs Eternal

A NEW RETREAT TAPS INTO THE TREASURES OF THE ANCIENT CITY OF BATH.

THE BATHS are eerily quiet as I float on my back and gaze up at the towering Roman columns, which stretch toward the soaring glass atrium and, beyond, the inky night sky. In the cavernous room to my right, a stone lion head appears to have burst through a gleaming mosaic wall, ready to devour a bowl full of icy flakes. To my left, a warm waterfall flows in a steady, steamy stream.

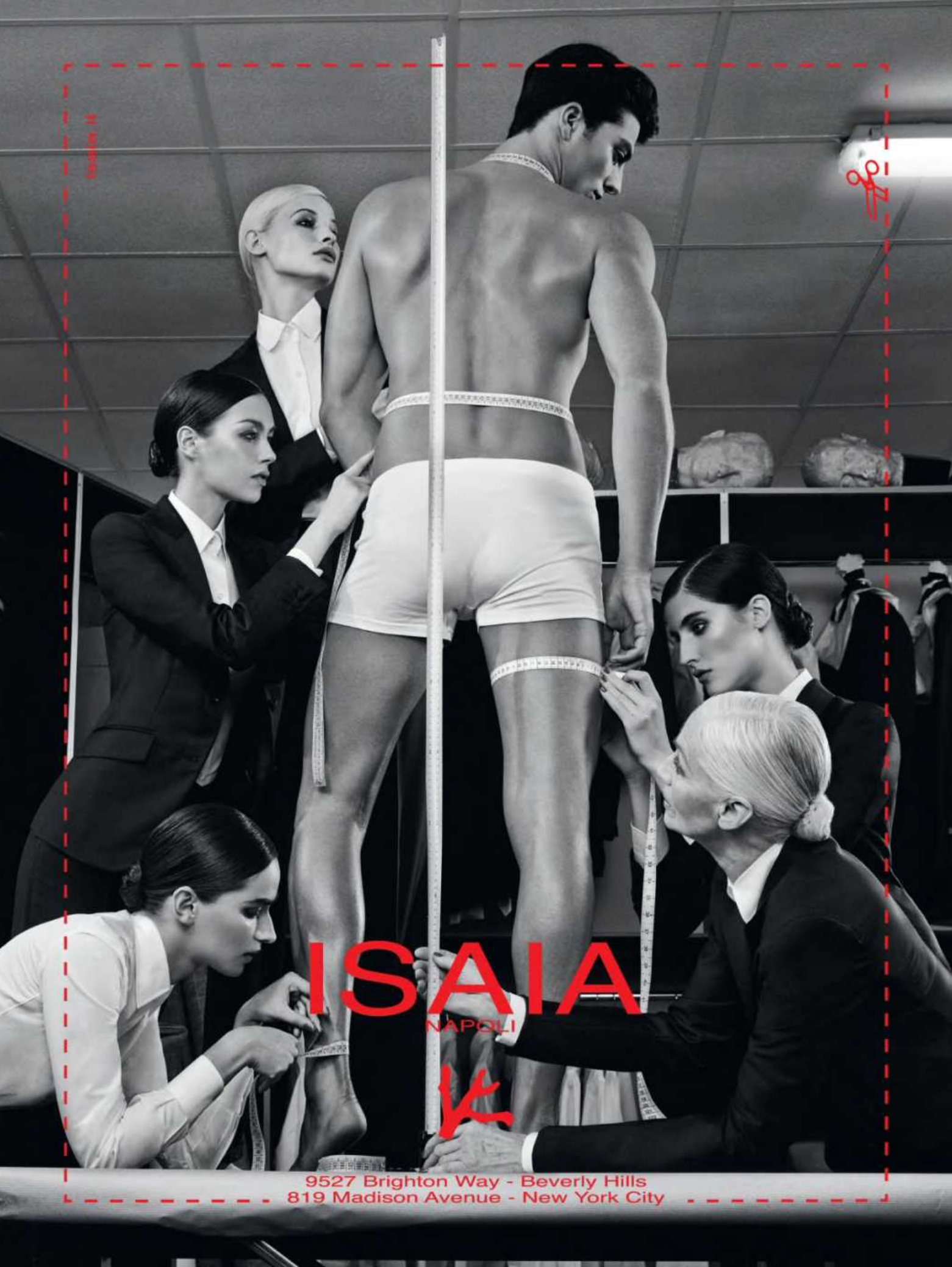
It is my first night in the ancient English city of Bath, and the UNESCO World Heritage Site has already seduced me. Slowly gliding atop the sparkling thermal pool, I am following in—or perhaps floating over—the footsteps of the Romans who bathed in these healing waters more than 2,000 years ago. This particular pool, however, is but a few months old, having opened in September in the city's new Gainsborough Bath Spa.

Set within a pair of Georgian and Victorian structures that served as a hospital during the 1800s, the Gainsborough—which derives its name from the painter Thomas Gainsborough, who lived in Bath during the 18th century—is the only hotel with direct access to the town's springs. Ancient mosaics uncovered during the renovation of the original structures served as inspiration for the New York-based designer Alexandra Champalimaud, who has adorned the 99-room property with art-deco-style custom furnishings and commissioned artworks. In the restaurant helmed by the Michelin-starred chef Johann Lafer, coffered ceilings and a black-marble fireplace lend a modern touch to the historic backdrop.

The heart of the Gainsborough is its 14,000-square-foot Spa Village Bath, where,

in addition to leisurely soaks, guests enjoy treatments ranging from the 90-minute Magnesium Wrap (prescribed for increased metabolism and circulation) to the 45-minute Aquasana (an underwater yoga-therapy session in the thermal pool). My experience begins in the tiny Fountain Room, set behind thick velvet drapes. Seated in front of a small fountain bubbling with thermal water, I drink the local elixir from a small copper cup. After a Magnesium Wrap, I return to the bath circuit. I float once again in the warm pool, gazing at the glittering atrium above and emerging from time to time for a chilly visit to the ice chamber or a warm dip in the heated bath. —MARY BEMIS

Gainsborough Bath Spa,
www.thegainsboroughbathspa.co.uk



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❖
Mystic Rock golf course at Nemacolin Woodlands Resort will soon feature an additional nine-hole, Pete Dye-designed layout.
❖

Rock On

PETE DYE SPINS A NEW TRACK AT HIS MYSTICAL MASTERPIECE IN PENNSYLVANIA.

WHEN THE Mystic Rock golf course at Nemacolin Woodlands Resort hosted its first PGA Tour event in 2003, the winner, J. L. Lewis, posted a final score of 22 under par. Lewis's low mark was one factor that impelled the course's designer, Pete Dye, to revisit the site in southwestern Pennsylvania and increase its difficulty by adding length from the championship tees. Dye returned to Nemacolin Woodlands again this summer, though his inspiration this time was not a pro but rather everyday golfers.

Dye's July visit to the Laurel Highlands-area resort marked the beginning of construction for a new nine-hole layout he is building as an extension to Mystic Rock. The addition, which is slated to open in the summer of 2017, was dictated by demand: Last year, golfers logged 24,000 rounds at Mystic Rock during Nemacolin Woodlands' six-month golf season. Accordingly, Dye

designed the layout—which will cover 84 acres and measure just about 3,100 yards from the back tees—with amateur golfers and resort guests in mind.

Whether or not the new nine holes will be easier to play than the existing 18, they will “definitely be easier to build than Mystic Rock,” said Dye, recalling how his team moved 21,000 tons of rock to construct the original course before its opening in 1995. The new holes will feature sculpted greens, copious bunkers, and dramatic layouts punctuated by exposed boulders. “The third hole, a 210-yard par 3, will be stunning,” Dye said. “It plays slightly downhill, right to left, with a long view of Lake Paige in the background.”

Like the original course, the new nine will stay true to Dye's philosophy of design. “The [original] layout is quintessential Dye, with generous landing areas off the tee,” said Dennis Clark, who served as the resort's

head golf professional for a decade. “But you have to place your drive to set up the next shot to an angled green. That's what's unique about Dye and why he's an architectural genius: the way he designs approaches.”

In addition to the course, the resort is building a new community of cottages and single-family residences, which will begin construction in 2017. The development comes on the heels of a recent \$30 million renovation that included the refurbishment of the resort's 124-room Chateau Lafayette—a hotel designed to resemble the Ritz Paris. The project also saw the construction of a new holistic healing center, which offers a treatment dedicated to improving flexibility and range of motion for golfers of all skill levels.

—DALE LEATHERMAN

Nemacolin Woodlands Resort,
nemacolin.com



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❖
From its aggressive stance to its rousing 6.2-liter Hemi V-8, the SRT Hellcat is an apt nod to 1970s American muscle cars.
❖

Speed Demon

THE 707 HP DODGE CHALLENGER SRT HELLCAT HAS ITS PERFORMANCE PRIORITIES STRAIGHT.

MUCH LIKE swinging a sledgehammer or devouring a 32-ounce porterhouse steak, driving an honest-to-god muscle car can satisfy a primordial urge. The new Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat did the trick in August, addressing my desire to move fast and make noise en route from Los Angeles to the Monterey Peninsula for the annual car-week festivities.

SRT, Chrysler's high-performance division, bills the Hellcat as the fastest and most powerful muscle car ever. The sedan's rumbling 6.2-liter Hemi V-8 develops 707 hp and 650 ft lbs of torque, enabling a zero-to-60-mph time of about 3.6 seconds and a top speed one tick shy of 200 mph. Its straight-line performance is especially impressive considering that its frontal aspect is as wide as a bull rhino's and its weight is nearly 4,500 pounds.

Purists may prefer the 6-speed manual transmission, but the optional 8-speed

Torqueflite automatic with paddle shifters is quicker, taming any obstreperous manners while seamlessly upshifting or downshifting without fanfare—except for the display-of-speed soundtrack that comes when the rear tires lock up to the pavement.

The Hellcat's design references the circa-1970 Dodge Challenger and Plymouth Barracuda, both American muscle-car icons that look as good now as they did in their heyday. Like those models, the Hellcat lacks visual gimmicks and gratuitous embellishments. Still, my bright ruby-red model attracted lots of attention on the way to Monterey. Gardeners in pickup trucks and Ferrari drivers alike gave thumbs-up and nods, perhaps recognizing the supremacy of the Hellcat from a discreet emblem on each front fender—one of a few design elements that distinguish this monster from the V-6-powered base-model Challenger.

While the fire-breathing 426 Hemi-powered Mopars of yore were built to go

fast in just a straight line, the Hellcat acquits itself as a serious sports GT that is equally suited to the nearly 300 highway miles between L.A. and Monterey and the twisting back roads leading to and from the peninsula.

The Hellcat is priced at nearly \$65,000, which is high for a Chrysler. However, this rare version of the Challenger is engineered and built to perform at levels usually associated with more exotic—and far more expensive—machines. It also is spacious and can be a comfortable and docile driver, excellent for making road trips and even enduring freeway rush hour. The sport seats, optionally upholstered in napa leather and Alcantara, are snug and supportive. The rest of the interior is uninspired, but this is because the Hellcat's engineers put the driver's money where it counts: into the car's performance. —ROBERT ROSS

SRT, drivesrt.com



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What's in a Name

ROGER DUBUIS EMBRACES ITS FOUNDER'S VALUES WITH A SERIES OF VINTAGE-MOVEMENT TIMEPIECES.

THE FIRST IN Roger Dubuis's series of one-of-a-kind timepieces organized around combinations of vintage movements, the Hommage Millésime pocket watch (\$892,500) is the most interesting and, in many ways, counter-intuitive project the Geneva-based watch brand has undertaken in years. Although restoring and assembling these mechanisms requires the kind of classical watchmaking skills in which Dubuis himself specialized, the brand that bears his name has pursued much different, more flamboyant mechanical and aesthetic styles in its two decades of operation. Nevertheless, for this initiative the company seeks to

reconnect with its roots. "Above all," says Gregory Bruttin, product strategy director, "it is important for us to turn loose the knowledge of Mr. Dubuis."

After many years of limited interaction with his namesake firm, Dubuis has made a significant contribution to the Millésime project, sourcing the movements and passing on the techniques necessary to bring them to life. "Mr. Dubuis chose the movements he thought were interesting, and then we discussed how they might be combined," explains Bruttin. "The difficult part was finding a young watchmaker who could carry the project to completion."

That person proved to be the 10-year

company veteran Pierre Alexandre Gamet, who spent considerable time with Dubuis absorbing his by-hand construction and finishing techniques, many of which, in the present era of watch production, have lapsed into obsolescence. Gamet, who will complete at least six pieces for the line—including wristwatches—eschewed computer-guided milling in the restoration and modification of the first Hommage Millésime pocket watch, which is based on a late-19th-century minute-repeater chronograph ébauche (rough movement) from LeCoultre. The team also grafted onto the dial side a perpetual-calendar mechanism from a movement produced at a Vallée de Joux watchmaking school, taking particular care to align the calendar and repeater functions. Mechanical flourishes such as twin retrograde calendar displays and a figure-eight chronograph lever complete the design.

Like all Roger Dubuis watches, the Millésime is built to meet the criteria of the Geneva Seal. For the last two years, however, those criteria have included precision requirements—provisions the company did not anticipate when it embarked upon its work with such an old movement. Gamet had to negotiate the intricacies of an antique steel hairspring and bimetallic balance wheel, relying on techniques that have all but disappeared from modern factories. "We had to give a 19th-century pocket watch the same precision as a 21st-century wristwatch," says Bruttin. "But the work also has a philosophical quality. It represents the guardianship of real traditions."

—JAMES D. MALCOLMSON

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Hidden Treasure

POMELLATO'S CACHE OF PRIZED GEMS
IS RIPE FOR DISCOVERY.

STACKED FLOOR TO ceiling inside the highly protected vault room of Pomellato's expansive jewelry workshop are bins of rough stones waiting to be delivered to stonecutters. The

jagged rocks—citrines, tourmalines, amethysts, and more, some as big as fists, others the size of pebbles—await transformation at the hands of artisans into voluminous rounded or faceted gems for the Milanese

Pomellato's penchant for color is expressed in (clockwise from left) the Tango rose-gold chain-link bracelet and bangles with gemstones; Arabesque rose-gold ring with diamonds; Pom Pom white-gold ring with morganites, pink sapphires, and diamonds; and Tango rose-gold ring with topazes and diamonds.

brand's colorful designs. The exceptionally large stash speaks to the nearly 50-year-old company's passion for making colorful, bold jewelry. "Sometimes there is a scarcity of stones on the market," says CEO Andrea Morante, "so we like to keep a large stock of the stones we love, so we are never without."

This treasure trove enables Pomellato to create striking gemstone designs (priced from about \$6,000 to upwards of \$100,000) that are curvaceous and substantial, with a heaviness that underscores the quality of the 18-karat gold. Voluptuous in scale but far from flashy, the pieces are everyday elegant and playfully colorful. "We are more about style than status," says Morante. "Our pieces are tactile and speak to a woman's individuality."

That spirit is best expressed in the Nudo collection of rings and earrings, all of which have been designed for women to mix and match in their own way. The company's other signature styles range from Tango—including ample chain-link bracelets and necklaces that are handmade and pavéed with gems of every imaginable hue—to the exuberantly colored Pom Pom collection of one-off pieces designed around special stones, such as large premium-quality tanzanites, spinels, and Paraíba tourmalines.

Extraordinary gems, however, are just one facet of the brand's aesthetic, as a trip to the vault room suggests. Tucked away on a shelf in the space, not far from the precious stones, is an unexpected 2.5-foot-long mammoth-ivory tusk. The fossilized specimen from Siberia has already seen use in designs from the brand's Victoria collection that are no less stylish for their highly collectible nature. "We don't take jewelry too seriously," says Morante, "even though it is serious jewelry." —JILL NEWMAN

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A 1930s Eco-Meter pump (left) fetched \$60,000—about \$20,000 over the estimate—at an auction of Kyle Moore's petroliana. Right: A 1920s Kelly Tires sign.
❖



Get Pumped

AN ONGOING SERIES OF AUCTIONS IS CAUSE FOR EXCITEMENT AMONG PETROLIANA COLLECTORS.

KYLE MOORE OWNED what is likely the world's largest assemblage of petroliana and kept it at his house in rural Oklahoma, about 90 miles west of Oklahoma City. He was private about his collection and seldom invited visitors to see it. Dan Matthews, head of the petroliana department at Morphy Auctions in Denver, Pa., is one of the select few who did view the 4,000-piece collection of vintage fuel pumps, signs, oil cans, and other items related to gas stations. "It was worth going to see," he says. According to

Morphy, the collection is valued between \$15 million and \$20 million.

Moore, who died last year at age 80, sold his cache in 2006 to an investor, who earlier this year consigned it to Morphy. Now the auction house has begun dispersing the collection in a series of sales that began in October and will continue through 2016. The next event takes place January 9.

A prized item in the January auction is a circa-1930 Musgo Gasoline globe, a 48-inch-diameter enamel sphere that stood atop a gas-station fuel pump from the

now-defunct company. The globe—which sports the Musgo brand name and a hand-painted, brightly colored image of a Native American—is expected to sell for \$60,000 to \$80,000.

The inaugural sale in October included a pair of 1920s-era Kelly Tires enamel signs featuring the photogenic and stylishly attired character known as Lotta Miles. One sign sold for \$69,600 and the other for \$88,800. "It's one of the signs that you don't find very often, and not in good shape when you do," says Matthews. That sale also included a restored 1930s-era Eco-Meter

gas pump topped with a "clockface" meter on each side. "Nobody knows of another one of these," says Matthews. The pump fetched \$60,000.

Moore, who made his fortune as a cable-television entrepreneur, started out as a collector of cars before turning to petroliana. Though he paid top dollar for rarities, it is doubtful he anticipated the extreme rise in petroliana values in recent years, which has been driven in part by the trend toward lavishly decorated showcase garages for car collections.

Signs are the hottest petroliana category, according to Matthews, who says their prices have been rising almost vertically. He is not surprised by their popularity: They are remnants of automotive history that can be attractive and offer compelling backstories. And unlike classic cars, they do not require ongoing care, just good climate control and a display space. "You put them on the wall," says Matthews, "and they won't go bad." —SHEILA GIBSON STOODLEY **R**

Morphy Auctions, morphyauctions.com

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THE ULTIMATE GIFT GUIDE



HOLIDAY GIFTING IS a very serious matter at *Robb Report*. In the spirit of the festive season, however, seriousness never comes at the expense of fun—a fact reflected in our 32nd annual Ultimate Gift Guide. With the most items and experiences in decades, our 2015 collection brims with engaging ideas for connoisseurs of all stripes. For the adventurer, we present a DeepFlight personal submersible to explore the depths of the sea; for the automotive enthusiast, the first limited-edition golden-anniversary Shelby American Daytona Cobra Coupe. Oenophiles will find our insider's wine expedition through Italy to their tastes, while philanthropists will savor a once-in-a-lifetime African safari in support of a critically endangered animal. No matter your proclivities, the spirited selections in our 2015 guide are sure to surprise, delight, and, we hope, inspire a seriously fun holiday season.



THE *gift*

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The Sound of Silence

AN EVOLUTION OF the indoor-outdoor living areas on superyachts began 25 years ago, when Blohm + Voss launched *Lady Moura*. The 344-footer features a hatch in the starboard side of the hull that opens to a cabana. Later yachts were designed with balconies that fold out from the main-deck master suites; among these is the 241-foot Nobiskrug build called *Siren*, which launched in 2008. More recently, it has become popular for yachts to have beach clubs—not just swim platforms—at the stern. For its new flagship, the 150, Wider has incorporated the fold-down balcony concept into the beach-club design and added a swimming pool.

When the Wider 150 is at anchor and its 32-foot tender is deployed, the swim platform drops back into place but the door to the tender garage remains open; platforms fold down from each side of the hull near the

stern; and the tender garage is refilled and transformed into a 23-foot-long, open-air saltwater swimming pool surrounded by a spacious deck.

“In the last six to eight years, beach clubs have become in vogue,” says



**“IN [RECENT] YEARS, BEACH CLUBS HAVE BECOME
IN VOGUE. WE’VE TAKEN IT TO A WHOLE NEW LEVEL.”**

—JEREMY ROCHE, WIDER

Jeremy Roche, Wider’s sales and marketing director. “Any yacht above about 30 meters has a beach club of some description. We’ve taken it to a whole new level with the sides that open and the transom opening up. It’s a far grander, more ambitious scale.”

The first Wider 150, *Genesi*, was launched in the fall and was still available for purchase when *Robb Report* went to press. For future Wider 150 orders, the boatyard will work with owners to personalize each hull. According to Wider, it will take about two years to build each yacht.

The idea behind the Wider 150’s design, Roche says, was to create spaces that do not exist on other similar-sized yachts. For example, on the foredeck at the coach roof, where most motor yachts include crew and working spaces, the Wider

150 features an open-air living area covered by an awning that rises hydraulically. “If the owner is in a marina and he’s docked stern-to and wants to have a private dinner, what’s the good of sitting on the aft deck with people all along the quay staring at you?” Roche asks. “The owner can use this private foredeck spot, and under way he can sit there under the awning looking out in peace.”

The Wider 150 has a modest top speed of 15 knots, but it can cruise at 11 knots for 4,200 nautical miles, enabling it to make transatlantic journeys. The two power rooms house a diesel-electric propulsion system, azimuth pods, and lithium polymer batteries. According to Roche, the

yacht can run for at least eight hours in total silence on battery power alone. “When the captain drops the anchor and opens up the beach club, he turns off all the engines and runs on battery power,” Roche says. “You still have lights and TV and everything you want that used to run off a generator, but on this boat the only thing you can hear is the lapping of the water.”

“The outdoor spaces as a whole are great,” he continues, “but the technical aspects are there to allow the owner to enjoy those spaces in total silence.” —KIM KAVIN

Wider, Jeremy Roche, +44.7702.
597.157, sales@wider-yachts.com,
wider-yachts.com

THE *gift*

The first example of the Hysek
IO 45 mm Skeleton Tourbillon
with Blue Sapphire.

✱
\$119,000

**“JUST A
FEW YEARS
AGO, IT WAS
ALMOST
IMPOSSIBLE
TO CUT
SAPPHIRE
GLASS THIS
WAY.”**

—RALPH ALJORD,
HYSEK

Space Explorer

“**THE IDEA BEHIND** the watch is to give maximum transparency to the tourbillon movement,” says Ralph Aljord, vice president of Hysek, the watch and accessory design firm. “For this piece, we’ve kept the empty space [of a skeleton watch] but have added color and tone to that space, which also serves to enhance the sense of depth to the movement.”

Aljord speaks the language of design with ease—as well he should. The house upholds the legacy of its founder, the renowned Swiss watch designer Jorg Hysek, whose watches combine aggressive but fluid lines with technical interest. While Hysek himself was a master at the drafting table, Aljord wields a more powerful and, in some senses, more authentic toolbox. When his father Akram Aljord purchased the brand in 2000, he opened his own *manufacture*, enabling the brand, for the first time, to produce its movements in-house.

The HW14 caliber inside the IO Skeleton Tourbillon may be the company’s most successful confluence of design and mechanics to date. The movement is suspended from three spokes emanating from the center of the watch, delineating the barrel and power train, the flying tourbillon, and the winding and setting mechanisms. The layout is distinctly architectural and structurally daring.

Available to one *Robb Report* reader, the first example of the IO 45 mm Skeleton Tourbillon with Blue Sapphire—the new edition of the IO,

which will eventually be released in a series of just eight pieces—is distinguished by its use of colored sapphire plates at different levels of the movement. Bordered by rose gold, the subtly metallic sapphire inserts, which add color and form, are technically formidable. “Just a few years ago, it was almost impossible to cut sapphire glass this way, and it remains challenging,” says Aljord. “To do one, you have to break a few.”

The stark angles of the sapphire plates and the guilloché sunburst motif etched into the back crystal not only prevent the wrist from muddling the design when worn, but also recall the details of Hysek’s own work. Yet the HW14, which is one of the 19 in-house movements built during Akram’s ownership of the brand, reflects the eponymous founder’s artistic sensibilities on a deeper level as well. “The plates in this special version of IO give you a forced perspective,” says Aljord. “You can really dive into the watch.”

—JAMES D. MALCOLMSON

Hysek, +41.21.804.9090, hysek.com

The daring layout of this limited-edition version of the IO Skeleton Tourbillon positions blue sapphire-glass inserts at different levels within the case.



THE gift

An Isaia wardrobe, including two suits, a sport coat and trousers, a formal ensemble, a topcoat, shirts and neckties to accompany each look, beach attire, and shoes.



A private wardrobe consultation and fitting with Isaia's master tailor in Naples, Italy.



Two nights' accommodations in a suite at the Eurostars Hotel Excelsior for the gift recipient and a guest, who will enjoy private tours of historic Naples and Isaia's workshop.



A private boat ride to Capri and two nights in a suite at Capri Tiberio Palace on the island, where Gianluca Isaia will serve as host.



STARTING AT
\$40,000



Suiting Up

DRESSED IN A blue plaid suit and his trademark leather sandals, Gianluca Isaia attended the September debut of his esteemed fashion house's Madison Avenue store in New York. "Naples is our heritage," said the 52-year-old CEO, whose grandfather Enrico, a Neapolitan tailor, opened a high-end shop in his hometown in the 1920s. "We want to help people discover the heritage and culture of Naples through our brand," Isaia said.

Such discovery is the fabric of this sartorially inspired gift. One *Robb Report* reader, who can be accompanied by a guest, will receive not only a personalized Isaia wardrobe rich in *sprezzatura*, or casual elegance, but also a firsthand experience of the

region—Mediterranean climate, sea-side colors, relaxed atmosphere—that has helped shape the Isaia brand and, more broadly, Italian men's suiting.

The trip begins with two days in Naples, where the recipient will meet with Isaia's master tailor to select

A custom Isaia wardrobe and a unique Italian experience await the recipient of this gift.

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THE RECIPIENT WILL MEET WITH ISAIA'S MASTER TAILOR TO SELECT FABRICS AND DETAILS; THE FITTING FOR HIS WARDROBE WILL FOLLOW.

fabrics, silhouettes, and details; the fitting for his custom wardrobe will follow. During a rare behind-the-scenes tour of the brand's workshop, the recipient and guest will see the artisans—many of whom are second- and third-generation tailors—hand sewing suits in the same way that

Enrico Isaia did nearly a century ago. The pair may also witness the use of Aquacashmere, a proprietary material developed by the company to repel water and stains but still stretch and move naturally with the body.

After two days in the city, Isaia will host the recipient and guest on Capri,

where they will dine and dance at his favorite spots and enjoy a day on his boat sightseeing and swimming. There will also be time to visit the island's Isaia store. Locals and visitors alike are known to congregate at the shop on most nights in high season to enjoy cocktails, music, and wardrobe consultations. "I want our stores to feel like home, where our clients will want to come and have a drink and play pool," Isaia said in September. "Once they experience the warm, inviting Neapolitan spirit, our clients will understand the Isaia brand." —JILL NEWMAN



The recipient and a guest will join CEO Gianluca Isaia for sightseeing on Capri, where the tailored-clothing house has a store (top) on Via Fuorlovado.

Isaia, Sarrah Candee,
212.245.3733, sarrah.candee@isaia.it

PRICING WILL DEPEND ON THE RECIPIENT'S SELECTIONS, INCLUDING FABRICS AND DETAILING. TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM ITALY IS NOT INCLUDED.

BOTTOM: VALE T/THINKSTOCK

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Serie 1 is an exceptional small-batch blend made from Patrón's oldest and rarest tequilas. To achieve the right balance of agave and oak notes, the tequila has been carefully aged in a combination of new American oak and new and used French oak barrels. The extra-añejo tequila features complex notes of sweet caramel, honey, vanilla, dried fruits and nuts and has a deep, long-lasting finish.

Only 500 bottles are available worldwide, each signed by Lalique. Each piece is blown, pressed, fashioned, cut, engraved and polished. The Weber Blue Agave, the Mexican plant from which tequila is made, inspired the masterful design. The decanter is protected in a handmade leather case elegantly adorned with gemstone detail. A leather-bound book and video detailing this historic partnership are also included.

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THE *gift*

DeepFlight's new 16-foot-long,
two-person submersible.



\$1.5 million

Magic Dragon

ALTHOUGH THE NEW DeepFlight Dragon submersible can dive as deep as 400 feet below the surface of an ocean or lake, it is as easy to operate as any personal watercraft. In fact, because the sub is controlled with a lever and a joystick, maneuvering it evokes playing a video game. The Dragon is designed with tandem seating, and each cockpit has its own set of controls. Two pairs of vertical propellers—one at the nose and one at the stern—enable the vessel to hover at depths. The Dragon uses a pair of tail-mounted

The DeepFlight Dragon sub is easy to maneuver, and a single charge allows several hours of underwater exploration.

DAVID BUSH



THE DRAGON
IS INHERENTLY
BUOYANT, SO IN
THE EVENT OF
A MECHANICAL
FAILURE, IT WILL
AUTOMATICALLY
FLOAT TO THE
SURFACE.

fixed thrusters to turn, and when it pitches or rolls, DeepFlight's proprietary stabilization system keeps it level.

The Dragon is inherently buoyant, so in the event of a mechanical failure that shuts down the thrusters, it will automatically float to the surface. The onboard DeepFlight Dive Manager allows you to preset depth restrictions (and other limitations) to prevent the sub from hitting the ocean floor, coral reefs, or other submerged objects. The Dragon's electrically powered propulsion

system enables the sub to cruise silently at a speed of about 4 knots. The system runs on a lithium-iron-phosphate battery pack, which affords about 6 hours of operation on a single charge.

The Dragon weighs about 4,000 pounds and is 16 feet long. It is available with custom trailers and launches that can make it as easy to transport as it is to operate.

—BAILEY S. BARNARD

DeepFlight, sales@deepflight.com, deepflight.com



THE gift

A private-jet trip to Scotland for as many as five people with the renowned whiskey collector Mahesh Patel.



A rare cask of Glenfarclas single-malt whisky from the 1960s.



Private tours, tastings, and whisky dinners at the Glenfiddich, Dalmore, and Strathisla distilleries.



Bespoke decanters from Glencairn Crystal Studios.



A membership to Whisky Concierge.



\$2.5 million

Cask Masters

MAHESH PATEL'S \$6 MILLION, 5,000-bottle whiskey collection helped earn him a spot on *Robb Report's* list of the world's 50 most influential connoisseurs ("The Robb 50," October 2015). He is also the founder of the Universal Whisky Experience, an annual multiday event that includes



whiskey-pairing dinners, master classes, and tastings of rare single malts. And two years ago he launched his own label, Sirius Intrepid Whisky Purveyors (see "Getting Sirius," page 118). For the recipient of this gift, Patel will provide a window on whiskey

collecting that includes exclusive access to distillery warehouses and the opportunity to select a cask of Glenfarclas that has been aging at the family-owned distillery for about half a century.

Decanters by Glencairn Crystal Studios will accompany this gift's highlight: a cask of rare Glenfarclas single-malt whisky to be chosen by the recipient.

According to Patel, Glenfarclas chairman George Grant put aside a number of casks during the middle part of the 20th century. That whisky is now commanding a premium at auctions. In 2013, a bottle of Glenfarclas 1953 sold for about \$6,700, and last year a bottle of Glenfarclas 1955 fetched about \$10,000.

In addition to selecting the rare cask of Glenfarclas, which Patel says will yield 200 to 250 bottles, the gift's recipient and his or her guests will have access to the private areas of warehouses at the Glenfiddich and Dalmore distilleries. They will also visit the vault at the Strathisla distillery, which contains casks of whisky reserved for royal weddings and similarly special occasions. At all three distilleries, the recipient and guests will enjoy tastings of rare whiskies taken directly from their barrels. "You can't just walk into these distilleries and expect these types of experiences," says Patel. "It's about relationships."

Patel, who is 49, has spent nearly three decades amassing his collection and cultivating relationships with people in the whiskey industry and with other collectors. "There's a lot of stuff that you can't get from the distilleries anymore," he says. "I can get [the gift's recipient] into my world of collectors, where we trade and buy bottles."

Patel is referring to another component of the gift: a membership in Whisky Concierge (whiskyconcierge.com), his latest venture. It is an exclusive club through which members can acquire prized bottles from each other and gain access to rare expressions and limited releases. "If you want to be a serious collector," Patel says, "you need to be in that circle."

—SHAUN TOLSON

Universal Whisky Experience,
Mahesh Patel, 678.725.1592,
mahesh@universalwhiskyexperience.com, universalwhiskyexperience.com



Glenfarclas



Strathisla

"YOU CAN'T JUST WALK INTO THESE DISTILLERIES AND EXPECT THESE TYPES OF EXPERIENCES. IT'S ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS."

—MAHESH PATEL, UNIVERSAL WHISKY EXPERIENCE





THE *gift*

A private charter of Silversea Cruises' new 295-suite *Silver Muse* for a weeklong voyage through the Mediterranean.

✿
\$2.695 million

Cruise Control

ANCHORED AMONG THE cruise ships that converge in the Mediterranean every summer, a Silversea vessel can seem quaint by comparison. The relatively discreet size of the Italian brand's boats, none of which exceeds 270 staterooms, enables access to smaller, less-crowded ports of call and translates to a level of service and intimacy unattainable on 4,000-passenger megaships. For the ultimate sense of Silversea exclusivity—indeed, of having a boat all to yourself—the family-owned cruise line is offering one *Robb Report* reader the opportunity to charter its future flagship for a weeklong private journey through the Mediterranean.

Silver Muse (renderings above and far right) will host as many as 596 guests on a private cruise through the Mediterranean, where stops can include Palma de Majorca (opposite top).



SILVERSEA SUGGESTS AN ITINERARY THAT BEGINS AND ENDS IN MONACO, WITH STOPS IN CANNES, MAJORCA, MARSEILLES, AND SAINT-TROPEZ.



Silver Muse, as the line's latest and greatest ship will be christened, is sure to make a splash when it launches in the spring of 2017. With 295 suites, it will be Silversea's largest ship but also its most refined. Specific details are yet to be revealed, but the boat will house eight restaurants, which the company claims is more than any other ultra-luxury vessel. Every suite on the ship will have an ocean-view veranda, and a number will be interconnected to accommodate families and other large groups. *Silver Muse* will also feature more premier-level suites and outdoor spaces (including three open-air restaurants and lounges) than any other Silversea ship.

For this private cruise, which is

scheduled for August 1 through 8, 2017, the recipient can limit the guest list to family and close friends—or invite as many as 595 acquaintances. Silversea suggests an itinerary that begins and ends in Monaco, with stops along the way in Cannes, Barcelona, the Balearic island of Majorca, Marseilles, and Saint-Tropez. Ports of call can be customized to accommodate the recipient's preferences, as can the various land

excursions and other activities at each destination.

The experience aboard *Silver Muse* will also conform to the tastes of the recipient, who can request everything from customized menus featuring favorite dishes to signature cocktails to special entertainment options. Onboard dining, beverages, and entertainment are all included in the charter price, as are butler service and—for those moments when you really do want a place all to yourself—24-hour room service for every suite. —BRUCE WALLIN

Silversea Cruises, Sean J. Mahoney, 954.713.3910, smahoney@silversea.com, silversea.com

THE CHARTER PRICE OF *SILVER MUSE* IS VALID UNTIL JANUARY 1, 2016.



THE *gift*

A one-of-a-kind strand of rare golden South Sea pearls produced by Jewelmier Joaillerie.



One night at the Peninsula Manila for the recipient and a guest.



Transportation by seaplane from Manila to Taytay, Palawan, for a four-night stay in a villa at Flower Island Resort.



A private tour of the Jewelmier pearl farm in Taytay.



A charitable donation made in the recipient's name to the Save the Palawan Seas Foundation.



STARTING AT
\$300,000

A Golden Opportunity

BUILDING A STRAND of flawless golden South Sea pearls requires tremendous patience. It takes about five years to culture a golden pearl and as long as 15 years to assemble a necklace of the highest-quality specimens, according to Jewelmier Joaillerie, a family-owned business in Palawan, the Philippines, that since the late 1970s has been producing most of the world's fine golden South Sea examples. But precious time is only part of what makes this gift's strand of large (14 to 16 mm), seamlessly matched organic gems such an exceptional prize: The other part is the presentation, which will take place during the recipient's firsthand experience of pearl farming in the western Pacific.

With its offering for this year's Ultimate Gift Guide, Jewelmier is inviting one *Robb Report* reader and a guest to visit its pearl farm in Palawan's Taytay region. For the visitors, the trip will be about more than taking possession of an exceptional piece of jewelry; it will also be an opportunity, according to Jewelmier's deputy CEO, Jacques Christophe Branellec, to take a deeper dive into the world of pearls.

"When a person buys a pearl on

Fifth Avenue, it's a beautiful gem to look at, but [he or she] hasn't gone through the layers to see the people behind it," says Branellec, whose father founded Jewelmier in 1979 with the Filipino entrepreneur Manuel Cojuangco. The company's 1,200-person staff, including many scientists who work on the farm, devotes countless hours to cultivating the pearls, less than 6 percent of which turn out to be round, flawless, and deeply golden.

This colorful journey begins with a one-night stay at the Peninsula Manila, followed by a 2-hour flight to Jewelmer's secluded Flower Island Resort in Taytay, not far from the company's pearl farm in the waters of the Palawan archipelago. The recipient and guest will stay in one of Flower Island's villas—perhaps the hilltop lighthouse with 360-degree views of the island and surrounding sea—and enjoy meals of fresh, spiced seafood that honor Jewelmer's French-Filipino roots. The culinary highlight, says Branellec, is a dish of pearl meat, an oyster-muscle delicacy that he describes as a cross between a mussel and a scallop.

After indulging in the resort's amenities, the guests will immerse themselves in pearl farming. They will witness the culturing process, from oyster breeding to harvest, and meet with divers, technicians, and marine biologists. The pair will also learn about environmental conditions, such as ocean acidification and rising water temperatures, that are threatening the population of the gold-lipped *Pinctada maxima*, the only species of oyster that yields South Sea pearls. Jewelmer's Save the Palawan Seas Foundation promotes environmental conservation and sustainable farming, and a portion of the price of this gift will be put toward that cause.

Should the recipient and guest wish to plumb the gift's depths further still, Branellec offers a suggestion. "If the guests are divers," he says, "they have the chance to accompany us on a work dive. The water is all shades of blue and green—that's what these lucky people will be visiting."

—VICTORIA GOMELSKY

Jewelmer Joaillerie,
Joe Meli, 480.682.3623,
joemeli@jewelmer.com

THE GIFT MUST BE PURCHASED BY DECEMBER 31, 2016. TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM MANILA IS NOT INCLUDED.



The recipient and a guest will stay at the Peninsula Manila (top and middle) before embarking for Jewelmer's pearl farm (bottom) in Palawan.

THE gift

A five-day visit for four people to Florence and the Antinori family's wine estates in Tuscany and Umbria, with travel by private helicopter and car from Florence to Tenuta Guado al Tasso in Bolgheri, Castello della Sala in Orvieto, and Tenuta Tignanello in Chianti Classico.



Tastings of Marchesi Antinori's signature wines at each estate and a meal prepared by a Michelin-starred chef in each region.



Selection, in consultation with chief winemaker Renzo Cotarella, of a 225-liter barrel of a Cabernet Sauvignon/Cabernet Franc blend from the Solaia cellar at Tenuta Tignanello, to be custom bottled for the recipient.



Two bottles of every vintage of Solaia from 1978 to 2013 for the recipient.



A private tour of Florence's Uffizi Gallery, a visit to Marchesi Antinori's stunning new Bargino winery in Chianti Classico, and a visit to the Abbey of Passignano to see the newly restored frescoes by the Renaissance master Domenico Ghirlandaio.



A day in Siena, where the recipient and guests will attend the Palio di Siena horse race.



\$750,000



School of Vine Arts

WINEMAKERS SINCE 1385, the Antinori family arguably represents the oldest of the old guard. Yet at the same time, the family's members are the most visionary of iconoclasts. In 1971, for example, Marchese Piero Antinori rocked the Italian wine world by producing the first Super Tuscan when he rewrote Chianti Classico's traditional formula by adding Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc, rather than white varietals, to a base of Sangiovese. Aged in small French-oak barrels, this red wine created such a sensation that Chianti ultimately revised its own regulations. In 1985, Antinori's young protégé, Renzo Cotarella—now the company's CEO and chief winemaker—caused a similar stir by throwing out the rules for producing Orvieto Classico. His Cervo della Sala blend of Chardonnay, tempered by the floral and acidic indigenous grape Grechetto, became the most-awarded white wine in Italy.

Named for a sunny parcel of vineyard on the Tenuta Tignanello estate, Solaia consists of Cabernet Sauvignon blended with smaller quantities of Sangiovese and Cabernet Franc.



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MARCHESE PIERO ANTINORI ROCKED THE ITALIAN WINE WORLD BY REWRITING CHIANTI CLASSICO'S TRADITIONAL FORMULA.

The recipient of this gift and three guests will have the opportunity to enter the unique inner circle of this venerable family. On arrival in Tuscany, the group will be lodged in the Imperial Suite of the five-star Villa Cora hotel, which overlooks the city of Florence, and on the first night will join Marchese Piero Antinori for a welcome dinner at the 13th-century Palazzo Antinori on the celebrated Via de' Turnabuoni. During the dinner, which will be prepared by Michelin-starred chef Marco Stabile of Florence's Ora d'Aria, the marchese

will present the recipient with keys to the palace. The group will continue to delve into Tuscany's cultural treasures, new and old, with a private tour of the Uffizi Gallery and a viewing of the frescoes of Domenico Ghirlandaio at the Abbey of Passignano, as well as visits to the Guado al Tasso estate in Bolgheri, Castello della Sala in Orvieto, and the sleekly styled Bargino winery in Chianti Classico.

After days of immersion in wine, architecture, and art, the group will arrive at the fabled Tignanello estate. There they will join Cotarella for a tasting in the cellar, where the recipient will personally select a 2015 barrel of a special, one-of-a-kind blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc from the Solaia Vineyard. As Cotarella points out, the tiny, 50-acre parcel—with its steep, rocky, southwestern-facing slopes and 1,300-foot elevation—is ideally suited to these varietals. The recipient will have the chance to get

to know this matchless terroir intimately, as this gift also includes two bottles each of every vintage of Solaia from 1978 to 2013—a wine celebrated for its intense red fruit, deep floral notes, and distinct spiciness. On emerging from the cellar, the group will share a toast (or two) with members of the Antinori family during an intimate dinner at Tignanello prepared by the three-Michelin-star restaurant Enoteca Pinchiorri.

—DAVID LYON

Marchesi Antinori, Barbara Luison, +39.055.2359857, barbara.luison@antinori.it



Top: Castello della Sala in Orvieto. Above: Tenuta Tignanello in Chianti Classico.

ATTENDANCE AT THE PALIO DI SIENA, WHICH IS HELD ON JULY 2, 2016, IS CONTINGENT ON THE TIMING OF THE RECIPIENT'S VISIT; IF THE TRIP DOES NOT COINCIDE WITH THIS EVENT, ANOTHER ACTIVITY, SUCH AS AN EXCLUSIVE BOATING EXCURSION, WILL BE ARRANGED. THE TOUR OF THE UFFIZI GALLERY AND THE VISIT TO THE ABBEY OF PASSIGNANO ARE CONTINGENT ON BOOKING BY JANUARY 31, 2016. TRAVEL TO AND FROM ITALY IS NOT INCLUDED.



HONOUR • POWER • PRIDE

STEFANO RICCI



THE *gift*

A donation to Rhinos Without Borders to fund the organization's capture, transport, and release of two rhinoceroses.



A 10-day safari visiting andBeyond and Great Plains Conservation lodges in South Africa and Botswana.



Participation in either the capture or the release of the two rhinos.



STARTING AT
\$250,000

Above and Beyond

A HALF MILLION rhinoceroses once roamed Africa and Asia. Today, however, the wild population of the animals—whose horns are prized for supposed medicinal qualities and as status symbols in Vietnam and China—numbers less than 29,000. In fact, one rhino is killed by poachers every seven hours in South Africa alone, leaving the great beasts teetering on the brink of extinction.

Rhinos Without Borders, an initiative cofounded by the African safari companies andBeyond and Great Plains Conservation, is taking drastic measures to prevent the animals' demise. The organization's ambitious plan involves tranquilizing and capturing 100 rhinos in high-risk areas in South Africa and transporting them via convoy and cargo plane to relative safety in Botswana, a country

renowned for its aggressive anti-poaching measures. So far, the group has successfully airlifted one batch of rhinos, including a pregnant female who subsequently gave birth in her new home in the Okavango Delta.

With this gift, Rhinos Without Borders is offering the recipient and a guest a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to assist—both financially and physically—in saving the animals.

The rhinos will be darted from a helicopter, captured, and then transported to a safer location.



BR-X1 CHRONOGRAPHE TOURBILLON

The BR-X1 CHRONOGRAPHE TOURBILLON is an ultra-sophisticated watch which combines the great mechanical complexity of an exceptional calibre with the extreme design of a professional instrument. This haute horlogerie mechanism combines a number of complications: a tourbillon, a column wheel skeleton chronograph with mono-pusher, a 30-minute counter with jumping hand and a 4-day power reserve.

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The price of this gift includes a \$100,000 donation that will fund the transfer of two rhinos from South Africa to Botswana. The remainder of the price will cover a 10-day trip for two that will include participation in either the capture or the release of the rhinos.

The adventure will begin in South Africa, where the recipient and guest will receive an insider's view of the challenges facing antipoaching efforts from andBeyond's CEO, Joss Kent (see "The Robb Reader," page 288), and reserve manager, Simon Naylor. Depending on the timing of the trip, the guests might help Kent and Naylor track, dart, and capture two rhinos.



"SURVIVAL INSTINCTS WILL MAKE YOU RUN FASTER THAN YOU HAVE EVER DONE IN YOUR LIFE."

—JOSS KENT, ANDBEYOND

"Darting the rhino from the helicopter and then tracking it through the bush is adrenaline fueled and exciting," says Kent. "But the most incredible experience is placing your hands on this incredible beast before it is carefully revived. Such enormous power and presence, and yet so vulnerable."

While on safari in South Africa, the guests will stay in an andBeyond camp or other luxury lodge, depending on the location of the rescue operation. In Botswana, they will stay at Great Plains' exclusive Zarafa Camp in the Selinda Reserve. If the timing of the trip coincides with the release, rather than the capture, of the rhinos, the guests will be helicoptered from Zarafa to a secret location and will assist in preparing and freeing the animals.

"At release, it takes about 20 to 30 seconds for the sedated rhino to come fully awake," says Kent. "From squatting beside [it], monitoring it,

and caring for it, you then have 30 seconds to run to safety. Survival instincts will make you run faster than you have ever done in your life."

In Botswana, the guests will be joined by Great Plains' owners, the world-renowned wildlife filmmakers Dereck and Beverly Joubert, who will oversee the rhinos' release and capture it on video for an upcoming documentary. The trip, which includes charter and international flights within Africa, will wind down with a stay at Cape Town's elegant Ellerman House hotel, where the guests can reflect on their amazing rhino rescue. —LISA SWEETINGHAM

Rhinos Without Borders,
Wynandt Verster, wynandt.verster@andbeyond.com, rhinoswithoutborders.com

THE PRICE IS APPROXIMATE AND MAY VARY. A PRECISE RATE WILL BE QUOTED ONCE TRIP DATES ARE FIXED. THE \$100,000 DONATION IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE FOR RESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES, UNITED KINGDOM, OR SOUTH AFRICA.

Top: andBeyond's Exeter River Lodge. Above: Great Plains Conservation's Zarafa Camp.

TOP: DOOK; BOTTOM: DANA ALLEN

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First in Line

 **DAVID BROWN AUTOMOTIVE**, an English marque that launched last year, is offering a *Robb Report* reader the opportunity to own the first Speedback GT (\$775,000) delivered to the United States. The body of the Speedback GT—the company’s inaugural model—is made from 142 aluminum panels that are hammered, shaped, and assembled by hand during a build process that requires 3,200 hours of labor for each car. The company plans to build only 100 examples.



A bench for impromptu picnics unfolds from the Speedback GT’s trunk.

Depending on the angle from which it is viewed, the Speedback GT calls to mind a 1960s-era grand tourer from Ferrari, Maserati, or Aston Martin. (There is no familial connection between the David Brown who founded the new auto brand and the former Aston Martin owner of the same name.) The company offers a variety of leathers for the car’s interior and will pair the upholstery with British elm-wood trim that is unique to each car.

The Speedback GT was designed by Alan Moberley, a former designer at Jaguar. It is built on a Jaguar XKR chassis and equipped with a 6-speed automatic transmission and a supercharged 5-liter V-8 that are also from Jaguar. The engine produces 510 hp and 461 ft lbs of torque, which Brown

describes as “low and grimy.” The car’s top speed is limited to 155 mph, and its zero-to-60-mph time is 4.6 seconds. “Its speed is discretionary,” says Brown: “It is there when you want it to be, but this car is meant to relax you. We want you to enjoy the journey.” The picnic bench that folds out from the trunk will help the gift’s recipient do just that. —AMANDA MILLIN

David Brown Automotive,
Michelle Gay, +44.24.7722.0510,
info@davidbrownautomotive.com,
davidbrownautomotive.com

THE SPEEDBACK GT WILL TAKE 5 TO 6 MONTHS TO BUILD AFTER IT HAS BEEN PURCHASED. IT COMES WITH A FULL 3-YEAR WARRANTY AND CAN BE SERVICED AT ANY JAGUAR DEALERSHIP WORLDWIDE.

Continued Success

SHELBY AMERICAN IS building 50 Daytona Cobra Coupe continuation cars to coincide with the golden anniversary of the original Daytona Cobra Coupe's 1965 FIA World Sportscar Championship GT III Class victory. The first of the continuation cars (\$750,000) is being offered exclusively to *Robb Report* readers.

Carroll Shelby and his crew developed the Daytona Cobra Coupe to compete with Ferrari and its 250 GTO. Only six examples were built, in 1964 and '65 (see "Brock and Roll," page 78), before production was derailed when Ford enlisted



THE [ORIGINAL]
COUPE'S RARITY
AND RACING
SUCCESS MAKE
IT ONE OF
THE WORLD'S
MOST COVETED
CLASSIC SPORTS
CARS.

Shelby to work on the GT40. The Daytona Cobra Coupe's rarity and racing success have combined to make it one of the world's most coveted classic sports cars.

This gift's car, VIN CSX 9950, features an all-aluminum body that is polished but left unpainted. It is equipped with a tubular chassis, leaf-spring suspension, four-piston Wilwood brakes, and Trigo FIA wheels. CSX 9950 is powered by an all-aluminum Ford 289 cu in V-8 engine that has been enlarged to 347 cu in and is fed by a quartet of Weber carburetors. This is an improvement on a power plant that even in

its original, cast-iron form remains one of the greatest engines in the history of racing.

The car's spartan interior includes Shelby-branded leather seats, a period-correct wooden steering wheel, and a modern Halon fire-suppression system. CSX 9950 also displays the signatures of Peter Brock and Bob Bondurant, racing luminaries who, respectively, designed and drove the Daytona Cobra Coupe. —ROBERT ROSS

*Shelby American, Gary Schechner,
702.942.7325, garys@shelby.com,
shelby.com*



Air Play

NEARLY A DECADE in the making, the Icon A5 amphibious light-sport aircraft (starting at \$189,000) is finally in service and ready to be flown—by new pilots and experienced ones alike—on weekend getaways, lake-hopping excursions, and camping trips. Icon Aircraft, which made its first delivery of an A5 in July, designed the unpressurized, two-seat plane to be easy and safe to operate. It has a maximum speed of just 109 mph and an FAA-limited service ceiling of 10,000 feet, and it is equipped with a full-aircraft parachute. The A5 is also

the first light-sport aircraft with a spin-resistant airframe, which—like its wings, tail, internal structure, and cockpit panels—is made of carbon fiber. Flying the A5 requires a sport-pilot license, which can be obtained with only 20 hours of flight training. Owners can learn to fly the aircraft through the pilot-training program that Icon conducts at its headquarters in Vacaville, Calif. (The price is \$9,500 for owners with no flying experience.)

The A5 has a simple and intuitive

cockpit that feels more like the interior of a sports car than that of a plane. Adding to that aura are side windows that can be removed so you can fly with the breeze in your hair and an elbow hanging out of the cockpit. The rear-facing 100 hp Rotax engine that powers the aircraft runs on standard automobile gasoline or aviation fuel.

The A5's wings fold up to the side of the plane, reducing its width from 34 feet to 8.5 feet so that it can be towed on a trailer behind a car to a

runway or a lake. (Icon offers a trailer as an option.) The plane can land on and take off from water, and its 60-pound baggage capacity offers plenty of room for fishing and camping equipment. —BAILEY S. BARNARD

**Icon Aircraft, 707.564.4000,
iconaircraft.com**

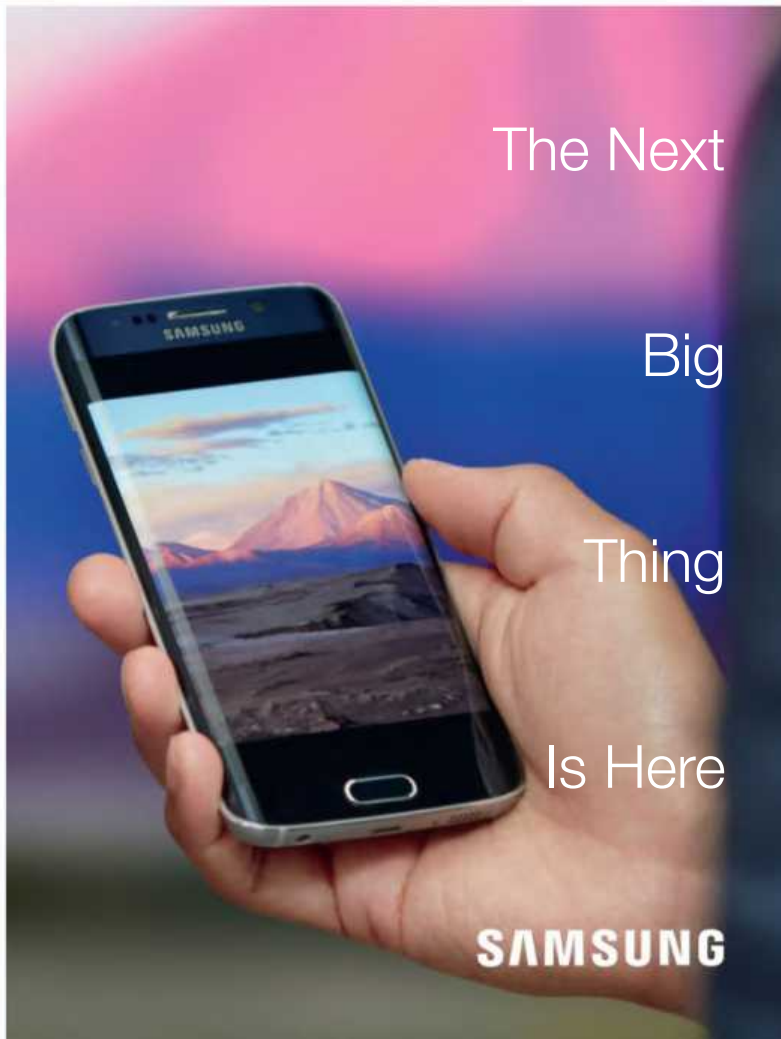
BECAUSE OF A BACKLOG OF ORDERS, THE NEXT AVAILABLE DELIVERIES OF THE ICON A5 ARE IN 2019.

The Icon A5 aircraft, which can land on and take off from water, features removable side windows.



"Moving pictures are my life. The Samsung Galaxy S6 edge and SUHD TV display my photos and videos in brilliant colors with incredible resolution."

Warren Fu, acclaimed video director, designer and illustrator, Los Angeles, CA



Secrets of the Heart

IT IS BELIEVED that during his reign as the king of Italy from 1861 until his death in 1878, Victor Emmanuel II kept love letters from his longtime mistress, Rosa Vercellana, in a safe that he had commissioned specifically for that purpose. Three years ago, during the demolition of a house in southern Germany, the safe was discovered. The German company Döttling acquired it, restored it, and is now offering it to *Robb Report* readers for purchase and personalization (starting at \$340,000).



The safe's inner doors feature a pair of opulent brass ornaments surmounted by the king's coat of arms and a crown. Hidden beneath the crown and within heart-shaped crests are engraved roses—a coded nod to Signora Vercellana. The two medals on the safe's exterior are believed to be portraits of Rosa in her youth. A mechanism moves one of the medals aside to reveal the keyhole for opening the safe. "Rarely have [we] seen so much passion put into decorative details, combined with an obvious desire of the manufacturers to keep safe what [was] inside," says Markus Döttling, the firm's managing partner.

The safe's recipient will have the chance to meet with Markus Döttling to discuss the interior's customization. It can be converted into a humidor, a gun safe, or a mini bar. Or it can be used for its original purpose: storing precious documents. The safe is depicted here with an interior that can hold 42 watches and includes 10 drawers with fronts fashioned from polished poplar burr wood.

The company has kept the safe's original locking mechanism but added an up-to-date security system. It includes seismic microphones that are capable of detecting vibrations indicative of a break-in attempt and sounding an alarm.

—SHEILA GIBSON STOODLEY

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A Snail's Grace

✱ **WHEN ARUN BOHRA** first laid eyes on this gift's vivid blue-green stone, he simply had to have it. He acquired it through a prominent diamond dealer, and rather than set it in a traditional diamond ring, the adventurous jeweler created a special backdrop: a playful design inspired by his 3-year-old son's obsession with snails. The voluminous Nautilus ring (\$3.75 million) features the 1.55-carat vivid blue-green diamond amid nearly 8 carats of white diamonds set in 18-karat white gold. Master jewelers in workshops in Rome and Valenza, Italy, produced the piece over a three-month period. "This ring reflects my passion for design and the art of craftsmanship," says Bohra, whose appointment-only atelier, Arunashi, is located in Beverly Hills, Calif. Always on the hunt for unusual gemstone specimens for his one-of-a-kind pieces, Bohra says some of his clients buy his jewelry as an investment. "Diamonds and gemstones are still the easiest form of portable wealth, and historically they have always gone up in value," he says. Whether or not the recipient of this gift views the Nautilus as an investment, she will delight in seeing the jeweled snail on her finger. —JILL NEWMAN

Arunashi, 310.888.0123, info@arunashi.com, arunashi.com

THE SET'S
COMPONENTS
REPRESENT A
RETURN TO
NEWSON'S
ROOTS: THE
DESIGNER
TRAINED AS A
SILVERSMITH.

Steeped in Tradition

✱ **THE DANISH COMPANY** Georg Jensen has long embraced collaboration. Some of the century-old silversmithing house's most notable pieces of flatware and hollowware are the work of designers such as Harald Nielsen, Henning Koppel, and Sigvard Bernadotte, who not only were allowed to pursue their own visions but also were given their own brand signs with which to stamp their silver. With the Marc Newson tea service (\$125,000), Georg Jensen keeps this venerable practice alive through a striking design for the 21st century.

The set's five sterling-silver components—creamer, sugar bowl, teapot, coffeepot, and tray—represent a return to Newson's roots: The renowned Australian industrial designer, whose work extends from furniture and bicycles to cars and yachts, trained as a silversmith. This is, interestingly enough, his first collaboration in silver. The design was 18 months in the making, and each limited-edition set (only 10 will be produced) takes three months for Georg Jensen's artisans to complete.

"I find the design to be incredibly modern while still maintaining elements of our history," says Georg Jensen's CEO, David Chu, who approached Newson after working with him on an item for a charity auction at Sotheby's in 2013. "The majority of our tea services have been very ornate and beautiful. This tea service is beautiful, but it makes you want to use it, and that was the objective I wanted to achieve." —SHEILA GIBSON STOODLEY

Georg Jensen, 212.759.6457, georgjensen.com



Each Marc Newson-designed sterling-silver tea service takes three months for the artisans at Georg Jensen to complete. Only 10 will be made.



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*It also gave birth to Debonaire's new **INDIAN MOTORCYCLE®** ultra-premium cigars, which are already becoming a roaring success at fine tobacco shops across the country.*



For Phil Zanghi who started Debonaire House in the Dominican Republic in 2013, his cigars are his children. Every ring is boldly stamped with the day that cigar was born. And each is the product of his relentless pursuit of tobacco alchemy perfection, and something he calls "the Debonaire Ideal."

"None of what we've accomplished would've been possible without our commitment to this work-life philosophy that sets the very highest standard for everything we do, and inspires us to conduct our business and our lives in the most gentlemanly fashion," Mr. Zanghi says. And according to recent reviews, this commitment has resulted in cigars of ultra-premium quality. Distinctively rich notes of mocha, dark chocolate, black pepper, and a hint of caramel mixed with leather and crème that rival some of the most heralded Cuban brands - and pair extremely well with the gentlemanly pursuits of wine, whisky and elegant recreation.

Handcrafted in the Dominican Republic.



"Indian Motorcycle® started up two years before Harley Davidson, in 1901. And it was like a motorized thoroughbred," Zanghi muses. "There's still no bike like it. That leather saddle, those beautiful full fenders and fringe.

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Today, Debonaire House produces its Debonaire and Indian Motorcycle® brand cigars in the Dominican Republic, using old-world Cuban and Dominican growing, curing, blending and rolling techniques. All courtesy of a staff whose pedigree in the cigar industry goes back five generations. The result is two extraordinary cigar brands from very different worlds, both the product of the same uncompromising ideal - and one very delicious road trip indeed.



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A Natural Fit



ONE OF THE founding fathers of the 20th century's studio furniture movement, George Nakashima saw beauty where others could not. The designer, who passed away in 1990, regularly scoured the leftovers of lumberyards, plucking up seemingly useless scraps of wood to shape some of his generation's most prized pieces. His work has been exhibited in major museums for decades and often fetches six figures at auction. "He accentuated the flaws [in the wood] rather than cutting around them," says Robert Aibel, founder of the Moderne

Gallery in Philadelphia, the leading specialist dealer in Nakashima's furniture. "He thought the flaws in the piece could be used aesthetically to appeal to people's sense of nature."

For this year's Ultimate Gift Guide, Aibel has assembled a one-of-a-kind collection of Nakashima dining-room furniture (\$462,000). The collection's crown jewel is a rare Sanso table fashioned from American black walnut—one of Nakashima's favorite woods—which the furniture

maker based on his designs for the Peace Altar at New York City's Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Accompanying the Sanso table are six Conoid chairs that were created by private commission during the 1980s, and a double "radio door" buffet. The latter, a furnishing designed to hold linens and silverware, resembles the radio hi-fi cabinets for which Nakashima was well known. The collection's trestle server—another scarce piece—provides an extra surface for

finishing dishes before serving.

Tying the room together is a custom chandelier designed by Nakashima's daughter and creative heir, Mira Nakashima. Crafted from Japanese cypress and fiberglass-impregnated paper, the fixture will shed light on a rare assemblage by one of the United States' furniture masters.

—SHEILA GIBSON STOODLEY

Moderne Gallery, 215.923.8536,
modernegallery.com

George Nakashima's Sanso table, which comes with six Conoid chairs, is the centerpiece of this rare gift.

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Gold Rush

* **PURISTS BELIEVE THAT** caviar is best sampled on the hand—a technique that invites informality and thus leaves guests without the thrill of ceremony. This point was not lost on Ruediger Benedikt, a Barcelona-based designer who observed the crystal and stainless-steel caviar servers available to private hosts and imagined a sophisticated revision. “I really thought that in order to give it the correct surroundings, something more opulent



The wingspan of the Falcon *présentoir* is an impressive 32 inches.

would be the right way to present caviar,” he says. In this case, that something is the Falcon caviar *présentoir* (\$28,500), a handcrafted, 24-karat-gold-plated bronze creation cast using the lost-wax method. An arduous process dating back nearly six millennia, *cire perdue* (as the technique is often called) places a premium on quality of detail and individuality, ensuring that every piece is one of a kind. For each commission, Benedikt has clients approve sketches and the final mold—an elegant gesture from artist to patrons, who receive their custom vessel four to six weeks later in a handmade lacquered wooden box. The Falcon *présentoir* captures the stately grace of its golden subject, which displays an impressive 32-inch wingspan. “The falcon gives me endless inspiration,” Benedikt says. “I love the liberty and speed it represents. I love its majestic presence. It is an animal that is comfortable both in the air and on the earth. It observes its prey some time before it attacks. So what better creature of nature to protect gourmet morsels?” Custom options are also available. —ARIANNE NARDO

Ruediger Benedikt Design Studio, through Distinctive Designs by Bruce Petricca, bpdesigns.org

High Steaks

* **IT IS THE** kind of service only elite chefs enjoy: A top purveyor sources the best sustainably farmed meat, personally curates a selection at regular intervals, and custom dry-ages the most prized cuts. Rocker Bros. Meat & Provisions provides such a service to leading chefs in Los Angeles, at restaurants including Redbird, Petrossian, Bestia, and Osteria La Buca. Rare Gourmet Meats, a new retail service founded by a Rocker family member, is now offering the same to *Robb Report* readers: A year of top-shelf cuts, custom selected, dry-aged to the recipient's specifications, and delivered fresh each month.



Rocker Bros. meats are prepared at top restaurants such as (from left) Bestia, Petrossian, and Redbird.

Each of the deliveries that compose this gift (\$60,000) will suit the season: A July box might be filled with thick, prime dry-aged Angus and wagyu steaks—flat iron, skirt, T-bone, porterhouse, rib eye, Delmonico, whatever cut the recipient desires. A December delivery could hold heritage-breed turkey, dry-aged whole duck, a highly marbled wagyu tenderloin, heritage-breed crown pork

roast, foie gras, and much more.

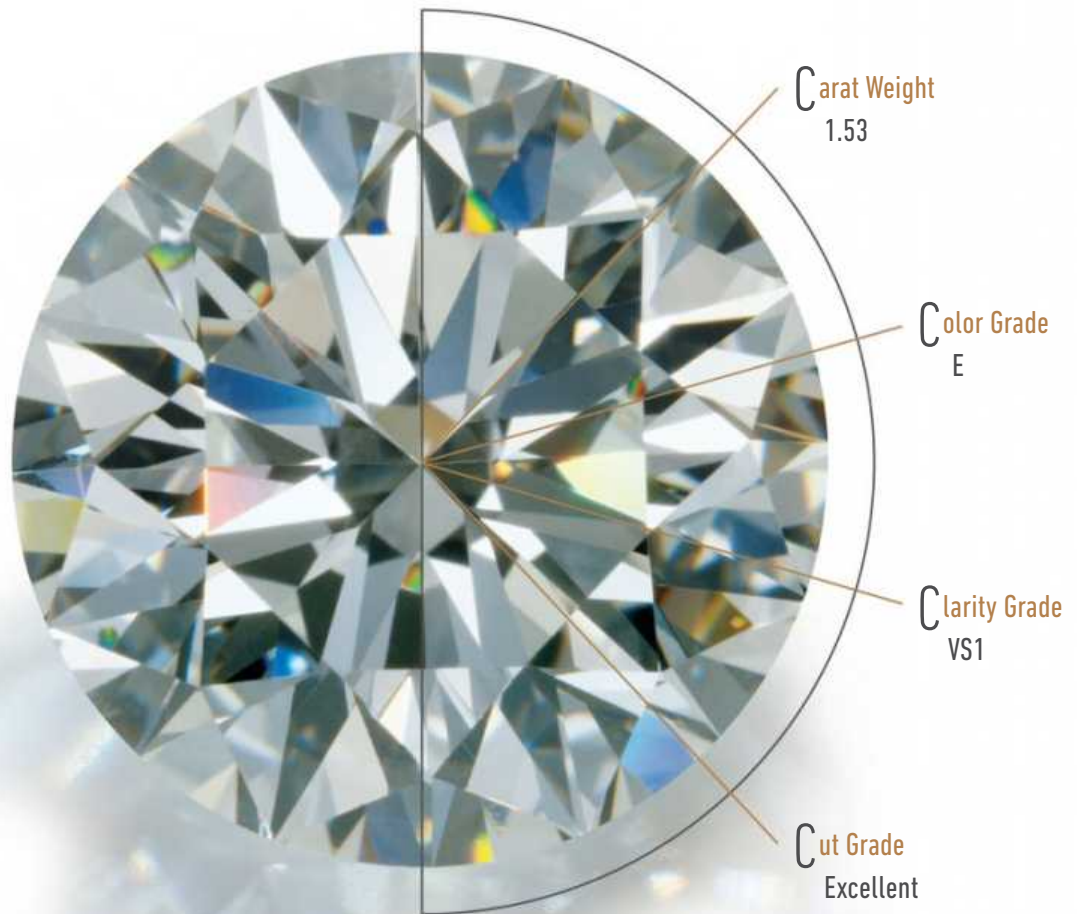
Like the chefs, the gift's recipient will consult with co-owner Debbie Rocker on each delivery, particularly on the quarterly Aspen Ridge dry-aged primal cuts from Rare's private reserve. Unavailable anywhere else, these special cuts will be aged in Los Angeles's oldest dry-age room until they are at peak flavor and tenderness. It is such a steak

that chef Cameron Slaugh developed with Rocker as his signature dish at Osteria La Buca: a 55-day dry-aged rib eye that he merely roasts in a wood oven with salt and pepper. “It's really beautiful,” he says, “just on its own.”

—MICHAELNE BUSICO

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Not-Just-for-Junior Cars

A DISAPPOINTING GIFT prompted Nathan Redfeam, a cofounder of the Harrington Group, to go into the business of building and selling fully functional half-size automobiles—or, as the company calls them, Junior Cars (\$10,995 to \$12,399). Years ago, he surprised his nephew with a toy version of a classic car. The car was expensive, but to Redfeam's chagrin, its quality was poor. Redfeam, who had been involved with classic cars since he was a teenager growing up in Wales—repairing, restoring, buying, and selling them at various times—decided



that he could build a better toy. Also, he figured, constructing the mini cars would help prepare the Harrington Group's staff for his long-range plans of producing full-size electric cars.

Junior Cars is one of several ventures that Redfeam operates through the Harrington Group, the business that he established in 2003 in Vietnam, where his wife was born. The company also restores cars and manufactures and sells replica parts for classic cars, and it has built a prototype electric car.

The design of each Junior Car model was inspired by a similarly named classic car. The collection includes the 250 California Spyder, the GB Spirit, the Cobra 289, the XK120, and the F1L, which looks like a vintage Formula 1 racecar. Each car is equipped with an independent wishbone suspension up front and

**IN STANDARD TUNE,
JUNIOR CARS CAN
REACH 44 MPH.**



in back, adjustable gas shock absorbers on all four wheels, vented disk brakes with Brembo calipers front and rear, and a working horn, lights, and turn indicators. The front-mounted, air-cooled, 125 cc four-stroke engine sends power to the rear wheels through a 3-speed semiautomatic transmission.

Though the cars are small—the 250 California Spyder is 8.5 feet long and about 2.5 feet tall—they are not just for children. The adjustable pedal box enables someone as tall as 6 feet to fit behind the wheel, and in standard tune, the cars can reach 44 mph. But the company can adjust the engines so that the cars do not exceed a child-safe speed. —LARRY BEAN

*Harrington Group Junior Cars,
juniorcars@groupharrington.com,
groupharrington.com*

Though they are roughly half the size of a sports car, the 250 California Spyder and other Junior Cars can accommodate drivers as tall as 6 feet.



Riveting Replica

AMALGAM FINE MODEL CARS of Bristol, England, is offering an exact one-fifth-scale replica of the Bugatti Type 57SC Atlantic (\$260,000), a styling tour de force from the mid-1930s that has become one of the world's most valuable collector cars. Bugatti built only four Atlantics, two of which have survived in their original condition.

Amalgam can replicate the coachwork for any of the three Type 57SC chassis for which it has data. Shown here is a model of chassis number 57374, the first Atlantic that Bugatti produced. The car was built in 1936 and is now in the

collection of the Mullin Automotive Museum in Southern California. After a restoration by its previous owner, it won Best of Show at the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance in 2003.

The Amalgam Bugatti comprises more than 3,500 parts, including electroformed nickel body panels that feature miniature rivets. The aluminum and brass engine parts and running gear are made with lost-wax castings. The model delights with such details as operable turn indicators and

headlamps, as well as a hood, trunk, and doors that open and close. The wheel covers can be removed to reveal the wheels' intricate wire construction, and the wheels themselves can be unbolted from their hubs. According to Amalgam, the model requires about 5,000 hours of labor, which includes patternmaking, electroforming, casting, assembly, and finishing.

"The car is regarded by many as the most important design in the history of the automobile," says Amalgam's

founder and managing director, Sandy Copeman. "We have made it our mission to create models of outstanding authenticity in terms of detailing and material, with a total focus on quality and absolutely no concessions to budget."

—ROBERT ROSS

Amalgam Fine Model Cars,
Tom Long, 678.975.3093,
tomlong@finemodelcars.com,
finemodelcars.com

Amalgam's model of chassis number 57374 includes the body-panel rivets that were a design element of the Bugatti Type 57SC Atlantic.



Eyes and Ears of the Beholder

FOR THIS GIFT, *Robb Report* has assembled a Bang & Olufsen entertainment system (about \$129,000) around the Danish manufacturer's new flagship loudspeaker, the BeoLab 90. The speaker stands more than 4 feet tall, weighs about 300 pounds, and looks like a cubist sculpture. In addition to a pair of BeoLab 90s, the package includes the 85-inch BeoVision Avant 4K TV, two BeoLab 20 surround-sound speakers, and a BeoSound Moment music server.

Each BeoLab 90 speaker is equipped with 18 drivers and 14 IcePower onboard digital amplifiers that deliver a

The sculptural BeoLab 90 speakers, pictured here with the 85-inch BeoVision Avant 4K TV, have a combined output of more than 16,000 watts.

total of 8,200 watts of power. The drivers have a 360-degree orientation instead of the traditional linear arrangement, with three tweeters and three midrange drivers on the front panel of the five-sided upper cabinet and four stacked tweeter/driver sets on the remaining sides. In the lower portion of the cabinet, which is made from aluminum, are a trio of 8.3-inch woofers and a lone 10.2-inch subwoofer that produces a forceful low-frequency response.

Bang & Olufsen has equipped the speaker with technology that optimizes the sound for the room by accounting for frequency irregularities and eliminating unwanted reflections. The technology also tailors the sound to the size and preference of the audience.

The BeoVision Avant TV features a drop-down center-channel sound bar for multichannel audio, and the wireless BeoLab 20 speakers offer rear-channel audio. The BeoSound

Moment is the brand's latest touchscreen music server, offering wireless access to digital music libraries and other sources. Like the rest of the system's components, the music server can be controlled with any tablet or smartphone. —BAILEY S. BARNARD

Bang & Olufsen, bang-olufsen.com

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Trophy Case

THE BOX IS FASHIONED IN THE SAME SPIRIT AS THE MOST INTRICATE TIMEPIECES.

✱ **BECAUSE WATCH** collectors spend copious amounts of time admiring the tiny details of their fine timepieces, housing those pieces in a case with a similar level of artistry seems only appropriate. The Blue Marlin box (\$3,395) created by artist Giuseppe Miniero is a true example of *métiers d'art*

fashioned in the same spirit as the most intricate timepieces. Inside is a triple watch-winder system from Orbita that enables the owner to individually program the optimum winding level for each of the movements used in the watch industry today.

Reserved exclusively for a *Robb Report* reader, the box is decorated with a form of marquetry called intaglio. Working from his atelier near Sorrento, Italy, Miniero selects woods from as many as 25 different species of tree—most of them grown locally—which are then cut by hand to his specifications. His genius lies in the subtle play of shades, grains, and shapes that allows

him to render photorealistic images as well as interpretations of the works of visual artists such as Dalí and Van Gogh. Normally, the highlight of a watch winder is found within, but a box this beautiful provides pleasure even when the lid is closed.

—JAMES D. MALCOLMSON

Orbita, 800.800.4436, orbita.com



Putting On the Ritz

✱ **IN ITS 117-YEAR HISTORY**, the Hôtel Ritz in Paris has been the setting of many a momentous occasion. According to legend, King Edward VII of the United Kingdom once called for assistance while staying at the hotel, having wedged himself too tightly into his suite's bathtub with a companion who was not his wife. In 1944, Ernest Hemingway staged a coup to liberate the Ritz's

bar from Nazi occupation. And in 1997, Princess Diana had her last meal in the hotel's Imperial Suite.

Three years ago, the grande dame overlooking the Place Vendôme marked a momentous occasion of its own, announcing that it would close for an unprecedented top-to-bottom makeover. Overseen by the French interior designer Thierry Despont, the reinvention of the Ritz—which was originally opened in 1898, by the Swiss hotelier César Ritz—is scheduled for completion in February. In anticipation of its reopening, the hotel is offering a *Robb Report* reader the opportunity to be among the first to stay in its redesigned Coco Chanel Suite.

The *Robb Report* package (\$55,000) will include three nights in the suite named after the influential French designer, who lived at the hotel for more than 30 years. The two guests will enjoy treatments at the Ritz Club spa's new Chanel au Ritz Paris skincare center (the first of its kind) and dinner at L'Espadon. Also included are cocktails at Ernest Hemingway's beloved bar, which is now called Bar Hemingway. —JACKIE CARADONIO



Ritz Paris, +33.1.43.16.30.70, ritzparis.com

TOP LEFT AND RIGHT: HARRY TAYLOR; BOTTOM: CHRISTOPHE MADAMOUR

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Reposado or Joven Mezcal
- .75 oz. Fresh Lime Juice
- .75 oz Fresh Lemon Juice
- .5 oz Agave Nectar
- Pinch of Tajin

Directions

In a shaker add ice, pinch of Tajin, lime and lemon juice, agave and Kimo Sabe Reposado or Joven Mezcal, shake vigorously. Strain into a Tajin-rimmed tumbler glass on the rocks.

For a Spicy Kimo Margarita, muddle in 2-3 slices of serrano chili.

Every so often a spirit comes along that's so groundbreaking that it can't be categorized based on what's come before it. Kimo Sabe Mezcal is such a spirit. Kimo Sabe uses a variety of different agaves, many of them unfamiliar to American palates, and features a soft, creamy mouthfeel and perfect flavor balance unlike traditional mezcals. The result is an entirely new kind of mezcal, which the father-and-daughter founding duo Jim and Ashley Walsh call "Refined Mezcal." We asked them to describe Kimo Sabe for those who have yet to try it.

HOW WOULD YOU COMPARE KIMO SABE MEZCAL TO TEQUILA?

Imagine the same picture—one taken in black and white (tequila) and the other in full color (Kimo Sabe). Tequila can be produced from only one type of agave plant (the blue agave) and is industrially processed. Kimo Sabe is designed for taste and flavor from seedling to liquid by using specific agave chosen from the pallet of 42 varieties that can be used. Kimo Sabe's proprietary distilling technology and methods are unknown to the tequila industry. Kimo Sabe's unusual complexity, balanced multi-tiered flavor notes and smoothness offer a deeper, richer palate than what can be expected of tequila.

WHAT LED YOU TO NAME IT KIMO SABE?

The term means Trusted Friend, a term of endearment used by the Sonoran Indians (whose territory spans both the U.S. and Mexico—like Kimo Sabe's). Approachability is tantamount in our brand. By just saying Kimo Sabe, one is imparting approachability and friendship.

MOST MEZCALS ARE NOT AGED, BUT KIMO SABE HAS REPOSADO AND AÑEJO AGED EXPRESSIONS. WHAT DO YOU THINK WOOD AGING ADDS TO KIMO SABE?

We are about innovation meeting tradition. We are dedicated to outstanding flavor and taste. Our Kimo Sabe Reposado and Añejo are aged in oak barrels, giving them a golden color and robust, burnt caramel and vanilla flavor with subtle sweet notes of agave.

WHEN SHOULD YOU SERVE AND CONSUME MEZCAL?

Deeply embedded in Mexican culture is this belief about mezcal—"it's for the good times, the bad times and everything in between." So really it can be served anytime in the spirit of friendship and togetherness.

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Trusted friends, please enjoy responsibly. - Kimo Sabe Mezcal ©2015

Going to the Xtreme



WHEN BOB PARSONS founded Parsons Xtreme Golf (PXG) last year, he hired a former Ping engineer and Ping's former director of product development and gave them free rein to build the best-performing clubs they could. After spending more than \$12 million on research, development, and facilities, PXG recently launched its first line of clubs. It includes drivers, fairway woods, and hybrids, all of which can be modified with a variety of interchangeable tungsten and titanium weights. The line also features irons and wedges that look like

blades but offer the forgiveness of larger game-improvement clubs, as well as putters milled from stainless steel and aircraft-grade aluminum.

The PXG Experience (starting at \$12,500, depending on the selected clubs) is a three-day program that begins with a custom fitting with the company's top engineers for a full set. You can then christen the clubs over two rounds of golf with a PXG ambassador at Scottsdale National

Golf Club, a 7,500-yard private course on 290 acres in Arizona's McDowell Mountain Range. "Being fit by the guys who actually had a hand in designing the clubs," says Parsons, "well, that's really special and something only a select few can say they've experienced."

—SHAUN TOLSON

Parsons Xtreme Golf; 844.752.9794, info@pxg.com, pxg.com



The gift recipient is invited to try out the custom PXG set at the Scottsdale National Golf Club.



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Making Your Cases

A DISTINCTIVE SET of well-made luggage is an ideal present for the consummate globe-trotter, so for this gift Bottega Veneta will fashion a made-to-order crocodile-leather ensemble that suits the recipient's taste and travel needs. Each piece (\$27,000 to \$65,000) will be handcrafted to the recipient's specifications, including the shapes, colors, hardware, and other details. Also at the recipient's discretion will be the number of cases. (A typical set comprises six pieces: three variously sized hard-case trunks, a briefcase, a carry-on jewelry case,

and a soft duffel bag.) Colors for the crocodile skin range from the company's offerings—Nero black, Ebano brown, Tourmaline dark gray—to, perhaps, the recipient's own signature hue (depending on availability at the time of ordering). Hardware options include brass, nickel, and

gunmetal. The artisans at Bottega Veneta's atelier in Montebello Vicentino, Italy, will adorn each piece with a plaque of authenticity that can be monogrammed with the recipient's name or initials—a personalized touch that recalls the nearly 50-year-old brand's motto, "When your own

initials are enough." The completed luggage set will be delivered within four months and be more than sufficient as a jet-setting companion.

—ANUSH BENLIYAN

Bottega Veneta, 800.845.6790, bottegapaveneta.com

Just about every detail in this gift's made-to-order luggage ensemble from Bottega Veneta will be at the discretion of the recipient.

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Bearing Fruit

* **FRED LEIGHTON IS** perhaps best known for its remarkable collection of estate and vintage jewelry, but the New York company with more than 30 years on Madison Avenue also produces new pieces that command attention. Consider, for instance, a pair of perfectly matched, pear-shaped diamonds cut from the same rough stone: Each of the 20-carat gems is exceptional in its own right, but what makes them even more captivating is the artistic way that Fred Leighton set them in this gift's glamorous earrings (\$2.7 million). "We chose to focus the design of the earrings to sit close to the ear, accentuating the face, while bringing an exotic and regal aesthetic through rows of cascading briolette diamonds, which create a fringe and frame each pear-shaped diamond," says the brand's CEO, Greg Kwiatt. The recipient of the new earrings, which are being unveiled in *Robb Report*, will surely appreciate the jeweler's approach to the two serious rocks: The 9 carats of briolette diamonds that playfully drip from the major stones were added for a sense of lightness. "These are bold, statement earrings," notes Kwiatt, "but there is wearability in the design that makes them contemporary and fun." —JILL NEWMAN

"THERE IS WEARABILITY IN THE DESIGN THAT MAKES THEM CONTEMPORARY AND FUN."

—GREG KWIAT,
FRED LEIGHTON

Fred Leighton, 212.288.1872, concierge@fredleighton.com, fredleighton.com

The Essence of Attraction



* **IN 1952**, Marilyn Monroe told *Life* magazine that her bedtime attire consisted of Chanel No. 5 and nothing else. With that famous remark, the Hollywood star turned the spotlight on the fragrance, which the Russian perfumer Ernest Beaux had created for Chanel in 1921 using a complex blend of aldehydes and floral notes, including May rose, ylang-ylang, Grasse jasmine, lily of the valley, and iris, as well as a warm base of Bourbon vetiver, sandalwood, vanilla, amber, and patchouli.

Today No. 5 is widely considered the most famous fragrance of all time, and now the brand's loyalists have another Chanel creation to buzz about: Fresh from the French luxury-goods house, Chanel No. 5 Grand Extrait Crystal (\$15,000) is the famed scent presented in a notable limited-edition package. Each of the 50 bottles is a sizable 30.4-ounce flacon hand-etched by a French crystal maker, sealed with wax to preserve the signature fragrance's integrity, and ensconced in a lambskin-lined coffret. Like its legendary fan, the perfume promises to become even more alluring with the passage of time. —J.N.

Chanel, 800.550.0005, chanel.com



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A Whisky for the Ages

FOR MANY CONNOISSEURS and collectors, a whisky bottled by Gordon & MacPhail is a precious commodity. The company, which was founded by James Gordon and Jon Alexander MacPhail in 1895 and has been owned by the Urquhart family since 1915, specializes in bottling rare single malts sourced from a range of Scottish distilleries. In 2010 it released a 70-year-old Mortlach, which at the time was the world's oldest bottled single-malt whisky. It was the initial release in Gordon & MacPhail's Generations Series and was followed by a

70-year-old Glenlivet from 1940. The name of the series refers to the generations of the Urquhart family who stewarded the spirits before they were bottled.

In September, Gordon & MacPhail released what is now the oldest bottled whisky: the Generations Series's third single malt, a 75-year-old Mortlach (\$32,000) that dates to 1939, when John Urquhart filled an

oloroso sherry butt with new spirit from the Speyside distillery. The whisky—which features distinctive notes of dried apricots and vanilla and hints of spice—is presented in a teardrop-shaped crystal decanter that is numbered and etched with 75 swirling cuts, one for each year of maturation. Gordon & MacPhail has released only 100 decanters, packaged in a leather travel bag with

a pair of crystal glasses to match. The whisky also comes with a book written by Charles Maclean and Alexander McCall Smith that recounts tales of Scotland, whisky, and the people who produced this rare single malt.

—RICHARD CARLETON HACKER

Classic Imports, Gary Keimach, 781.352.6241, gkeimach@classic-imports.com, classic-imports.com

Only 100 decanters of the latest Generations Series single malt—a 75-year-old Mortlach—have been released by Gordon & MacPhail.

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to join us as we ponder the question

WHAT IS A CELEBRATION

without a bit of bubbly?

*Can a business meal properly conclude
without a congenial sip of Port,
or a Thursday draw to a close
without a Cabernet salute?*

Is it possible to rejoice life

WITHOUT THE POPPING OF A CORK?

Perhaps. But why?



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Sleep on It

ALISTAIR HUGHES WANTS to find your perfect match in the bedroom. As the managing director of the London-based Savoir Beds, he believes that a bed should fit like a glove—or a custom-made suit. “It’s about comfort, style, and allowing the client to have whatever they want,” he says, drawing a comparison between his company and a Savile Row tailor. “You need a bed that takes your shape.”

For this gift, Savoir will customize its Panoramic State Bed (above) with a refrigerator, a 3-D television, a sound system, and the brand’s Royal Mattress.

In the spirit of sartorial artistry, Hughes hopes to design the ultimate Savoir bed collection for one *Robb Report* reader. The gift (starting at \$1 million) revolves, literally, around a custom bed for the recipient’s master suite. The package will feature Savoir’s newest model, the Panoramic State Bed, whose first example was designed last year for a client who wished to enjoy the sweeping views of the South of France outside his bedroom window. Savoir thus created a round bed that rotates on a platform. For this year’s Ultimate Gift Guide, Hughes is offering the

Panoramic State Bed topped with a supreme version of the brand’s Royal Mattress and outfitted with such new features as a built-in sound system, a Champagne-stocked refrigerator in the headboard, and a 3-D television hidden within the bed’s foot. “We’ve never fit together such a complicated bed,” he says. “It will be the pinnacle of what we’re doing.”

The gift will also include new mattresses for each of the rooms in the recipient’s residences, as well as beds for his or her yachts and jets. (Savoir will even design beds for the recipient’s pets, if desired.) The British

interior designer Guy Oliver will style and dress each bed in the collection.

The recipient will have the opportunity to journey to the Savoir atelier in London to be fitted for the beds. Should needs change over time, Savoir will make the necessary alterations at no additional cost, ensuring tailor-made comfort for every night’s sleep. —SHEILA GIBSON STOODLEY

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Sacred Sound

✳ **TO THE EARS** of many guitar aficionados, no guitar achieves a more beautiful acoustic tone than the D-45 model that C. F. Martin & Co. produced in the years before World War II. Martin made fewer than 100 examples of the D-45 before ceasing production in 1942. According to Isaiah Evans, director of vintage guitars and musical instruments at Heritage Auctions, the company built only 24 in 1941—including ones for Gene Autry and other music stars of the time. For this gift, Norman's Rare Guitars in Tarzana, Calif., has reserved a 1941 Martin D-45 (\$250,000) for a *Robb Report* reader.

"The pre-World War II Martin D-45 is one of the most sought-after and collectible guitars ever made," says Evans. The guitar in this gift has had some minor restoration work performed over the past seven decades, but Evans notes that similar examples that are crack free and have never undergone repair can fetch as much as \$350,000 at auction.

The D-45 is prized for its deep, booming tone and what is perhaps the longest note decay of any acoustic guitar. The key to that tone is the Brazilian rosewood used for the majority of the D-45's body. (A 1992 embargo prohibits the purchase, trade, or sale of the wood because of its rarity, although completed goods that pre-date the embargo—such as this gift's guitar—are exempted.) The woodwork and the mother-of-pearl inlay—around the body and sound hole, up the neck, and in the headstock—exemplify the attention to detail for which early Martin guitars are renowned. "Nothing compares to the craftsmanship of these guitars," says Evans. "The D-45 is what we call a Holy Grail guitar."

—BAILEY S. BARNARD

Norman's Rare Guitars, Norman Harris, 818.344.8300, normansrareguitars.com

"THE PRE-WORLD WAR II MARTIN D-45 IS ONE OF THE MOST SOUGHT-AFTER AND COLLECTIBLE GUITARS EVER MADE."

—ISAIAH EVANS,
HERITAGE AUCTIONS

Brothers' Keeper

✳ **SIBLINGS JASON GROSVENOR ROPER** and Nicholas Christian Roper spent years perfecting their artisanship before launching their luxury-goods business in England in 2002. Jason studied furniture making and eventually produced pieces for the esteemed London-based design house David Linley, and Nicholas trained as an engineer and worked as a metalsmith, forging custom works for private clients.

Today Grosvenor & Christian creates a range of bespoke items, from distinctive boxes for jewelry and watches to elegant humidors, and for this year's Ultimate Gift Guide the company is offering an extraordinary example of the latter. The limited-edition Cuba (\$11,300)—only 25 examples will be produced—is a 20-inch-by-10-inch humidor made by hand from dark, dramatically striated Indonesian Macassar ebony. It features a



satinwood-inlay outline of the country for which it is named. The lining of Spanish cedar provides the ideal amount of moisture for preserving prized smokes, which are part of this gift. The box will come stocked with 78 cigars selected by experts at the world's oldest cigar purveyor, J.J. Fox of London; they will include two dozen full-bodied Padrón 1926 Maduro No. 9 cigars made with Nicaraguan tobacco aged for 5 to 10 years, 20 medium-bodied Rocky Patel Vintage 1990 Robusto cigars, and a selection of Oliva Serie V cigars (24 torpedos and 10 Melanio figurados) from Nicaragua. —CAROLYN MEERS 

Grosvenor & Christian, +44.1725.513.518, grosvenorandchristian.co.uk





WILLIAM
GRANT
& SONS
— 2015 —
WHISKY
GUIDE



The gift of a bottle of whisky for the holidays can be automatic and almost thoughtless, a traditional token hastily grabbed off the liquor store shelf with more attention paid to the price tag than the bottle it's attached to. But the right bottle of whisky is something to be treasured, to be savored, to be remembered—not just for the exquisite taste but for the story behind it. Every great whisky has a tale to tell about how it came to be. Here are five memorable whiskies and the stories behind them from William Grant & Sons, which has been making whisky since Christmas Day in 1887.



WILLIAM
GRANT
& SONS
— 2015 —
WHISKY
GUIDE



Glenfiddich, which means “valley of the deer” in Gaelic, was the first whisky distilled by William Grant, and the cornerstone on which he built his own family business. Today, it’s the world’s most awarded single malt, and one of the most widely consumed. Two unique Glenfiddich expressions, The New, U.S. Exclusive Bourbon Barrel Reserve 14 Year Old and the 21 Year Old Gran Reserva, take the classic Glenfiddich notes of fruit, honey and spice and tweak them just enough to add an element of the unexpected to an old, familiar favorite.

Most Scotch whisky is aged in once-used American oak bourbon barrels. Bourbon Barrel Reserve

is aged that way for 14 years. But Malt Master Brian Kinsman takes the process a step further by finishing the whisky in new American oak barrels, the same way bourbon is aged. The result is a fascinating hybrid of Speyside and Kentucky, with deep vibrant vanilla flavors reminiscent of bourbon alongside notes of baked apple, cinnamon spice and rich, toasted oak.

Even more intriguing is the 21 Year Old Glenfiddich, which looks to the Caribbean for its finishing touches. For 21 years it rests in traditional once-used American oak, gaining the signature flavors for which Glenfiddich is



famous. Were it to be bottled then and there, it would stand as a superb whisky. But Brian Kinsman sought to turn the excellent into the extraordinary, and he did so by finishing the precious liquid in Caribbean rum casks. The rich, deep flavors of the 21 year old whisky are awakened by lively tropical fruit notes and a spicy toffee warmth. Glenfiddich 21 is proof that Scotland and the Caribbean are kindred spirits after all.

William Grant & Sons' Rare Cask Reserves selections are the gift to get for the Scotch whisky connoisseur, a lover of the history-in-a-

glass aspect of a dram. The history behind these bottlings is almost as fascinating and absorbing as the whiskies themselves. Take the Annasach 25 Year Old. It's actually four distinct blends of some of William Grant & Sons' rarest and most prized whiskies, culled by Malt Master Brian Kinsman from the voluminous stocks of aged single malts from all over Scotland in the Grant warehouses. Under Kinsman's supervision, the whisky specialists at four of WGS' key customers selected their own unique blends, using precious aged single malts from over 40 different distilleries. Each unique whisky, blended by Kinsman, is available exclusively through the retail outlets



WILLIAM
GRANT
& SONS
— 2015 —
WHISKY
GUIDE



of the specialists who created it (Binny's, BevMo!, Total Wine and Spec's Liquors), in very limited quantities. Annasach is a testament to the artistry and skill needed to create a great blend.

The Rare Cask Reserves 26 Year Old Ghosted Reserve is even more fascinating from a historical viewpoint—and just as delicious on the palate. This blend is a “vatted malt,” meaning it consists entirely of single malts married together without any grain whisky added. The single malts in question are from two “ghost” distilleries that no longer exist: Inverleven, which has been shuttered since 1991; and Ladyburn, which

ceased to exist in 1975. Brian Kinsman selected malts from the dwindling and irreplaceable stocks of each ghost distillery, and then married them together in hand-picked oak casks, letting time and alchemy take their course. The result is the best elements of each whisky—deep, oaky and slightly oily notes from Ladyburn, and sweet fruitiness with hints of floral blossom from Inverleven. It's a whisky that's as beautiful as it is rare.

It's hard to imagine a time when Scotch whisky wasn't as wildly popular as it is today. But the industry has had many peaks and valleys over



the decades. William Grant & Sons has weathered them all, but not all their distilleries have survived the lulls. The shortest-lived of them all—in fact, the shortest-lived distillery in Scotch whisky history—was Ladyburn. Built in 1966 at the site of William Grant's Girvan distillery, which made grain whisky, its purpose was to make malts for use in Grant's Standfast blended whisky. The malt operation lasted a mere nine years, turning out its last malts in 1975.

Four decades after the stills were dismantled, precious little Ladyburn whisky remains in the Grant warehouses, and once it's gone, it's

gone forever. The best whiskies seem to defy the ravages of time, still gaining depth and complexity even after decades in wood. The Ladyburn 42 Year Old is no exception. Rich and full on the nose, silky and subtle on the palate, with a long, dry finish, this is a masterpiece of whisky making which cannot be replicated. As a gift, it says as much about the giver as it does the recipient. Whether it's to be opened and drunk immediately or tucked away and treasured for decades, it will not soon be forgotten.

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Seventh HEAVEN

The long-awaited redesign of **BMW's** flagship sedan should please drivers and passengers alike.

BY LAURA BURSTEIN ✦ PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRIS TEDESCO



“You have to be patient.” This is the counsel from my front-seat passenger, the BMW factory racecar driver Bill Auberlen, as we head down the first straight at New York’s Monticello Motor Club in the 750i xDrive, the top-of-the-line variant of BMW’s all-new 7 Series. “Don’t just crank the wheel,” he says. “Anticipate the turn and glide it in.”







The 7 Series demonstrated unexpected stability during a test-drive on the winding 4.1-mile racetrack at the Monticello Motor Club.

The location begs the question of why BMW would bring media members here, to a racetrack, to drive the latest generation of its flagship. You would expect a 17-foot-long sedan to handle the circuit as nimbly and gracefully as a linebacker in full pads performing a sequence from *Swan Lake*.

Nevertheless, I press the accelerator, tapping into the twin-turbocharged V-8's 445 hp and 480 ft lbs of torque, and quickly increase the car's speed as it approaches the braking marker. Then I lift my foot from the gas pedal and squeeze on the brake, making each move a little sooner and a little longer than usual to compensate for the car's size. As the car bends into the turn, the tires squeal slightly and the body rolls a little, but we sail through with the stability of a barge and the agility of a runabout.

As for the question about the location of this test-drive,

the answer is now clear: We are driving the new 7 Series around a racetrack because we can.



It has been seven years since BMW updated the 7 Series, which was first introduced in 1977 and is now in its sixth generation. In the interim, the Mercedes-Benz S-Class underwent a redesign (two years ago) and pulled ahead of the luxury-sedan field with its plush ride and top-of-the-line amenities.

In terms of performance, at least, the 7 Series has caught up. The all-wheel-drive 750i xDrive clocks a zero-to-60-mph time of 4.3 seconds. That is a half second faster than the 449 hp Mercedes-Benz S550. The test car also benefited from the M Sport package, a \$3,000 option that includes



As the car bends into the turn, the tires squeal slightly and the body rolls a little, but we sail through with the stability of a barge and the agility of a runabout.



an aerodynamic kit, a sport exhaust system, and a sport version of the 7 Series's 8-speed automatic transmission.

The 750i xDrive has a starting price of \$97,400. Less expensive and less powerful is the rear-wheel-drive 740i, which has a starting price of \$81,300 and is powered by a 3-liter turbocharged inline-6 that produces 320 hp and 330 ft lbs of torque. Its zero-to-60-mph time is 5.4 seconds. Next year, BMW will offer a plug-in hybrid variant, the 740e xDrive, which combines a 2-liter turbocharged inline-4 with an electric motor to produce a total output of 326 hp. It will have an all-electric range of 23 miles.

The 7 Series's unusual agility for its size is due in part to its relatively light weight. The 750i xDrive weighs 4,610 pounds (which is 20 pounds less than the Mercedes-Benz S550), and the 740i weighs 4,225 pounds. A new passenger cell made of carbon-fiber-reinforced plastic,



Interior updates include embellished leather seats and an improved center touchscreen. Inset: The car can park remotely via an optional display key.

ultrahigh-tensile-strength steels, and aluminum helps keep the weight down. The doors and trunk lid are among the body panels made of aluminum.

Performance alone, however, will not sell a luxury sedan, and so BMW has also focused heavily on new technology. “Our flagship is the technological benchmark,” says Ian Robertson, head of sales and marketing at BMW. The automaker traditionally has used the 7 Series to introduce new features that later trickle down to other models, including electronic cruise control, adaptive headlights, and night vision with pedestrian

detection. The latest 7 Series takes a step closer to autonomous driving with an optional system that will steer, brake, and accelerate automatically at speeds as fast as 130 mph, as long as drivers put their hands on the wheel at intervals no longer than 15 seconds. Another new feature is an optional 3-D-view parking system, which presents a composite image of the vehicle and its surroundings on the central display, making it easier for the driver to slip into the tightest spots. The car is also capable of parking itself, even when the driver is not inside. The action is controlled by an optional display key, which resembles a mini smartphone. This feature is available now in Europe and pending regulatory approval in the United States.



The exterior redesign of the 7 Series is subtle. In a walk-around, BMW head designer Karim Habib points out elements that may otherwise be overlooked. “The car has a lot of surprises you don’t necessarily notice

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BMW traditionally has used the 7 Series to introduce new features. The latest generation takes a step closer to autonomous driving.



Above: Shutters inside the twin-kidney grille open automatically for extra cooling at higher speeds. **Top:** Previous iterations of the 7 Series.

right away,” he says. He notes the broader, horizontal design lines, the wider twin-kidney grille (which houses active shutters that remain closed at lower speeds for better aerodynamics and open when the engine needs extra cooling). A double shoulder line extends from the headlamp cluster to the top of the reshaped tail lamps, accentuating the size of the car’s doors. The 7 Series also features a novel Hofmeister kink, the signature forward curve in every BMW’s C pillar. (The feature is named for Wilhelm Hofmeister, who was the design director for BMW in 1961 when the company debuted it on the 3200 CS and 1500.) For the first time, the kink appears

as a single piece. It is an engineering feat, says Habib, that required extensive research.

The redesigned interior of the 7 Series is now cleaner and more refined and includes leather seats embellished with a new diamond-patterned stitching. The optional Interior Design Package includes rich, glossy wood trim and an Alcantara headliner. Habib points out the audio-system volume knobs, which are trimmed with silver-hued metal, and the wood trim above the rear seat-belt anchors on the C pillar. The small things can make a big difference, he says. For nighttime driving, the cabin has ambient lighting that changes color at the touch of a



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The all-wheel-drive 750i xDrive features a robust twin-turbocharged V-8 that delivers 445 hp.

button and an optional sunroof with etches that catch the interior light and create the illusion of a starry sky.

The new center touchscreen is a significant update to the cabin. It enables you to enter navigation information and select other functions much faster than you can with the iDrive rotary knob. (For creatures of habit, BMW has retained the iDrive.) BMW also has improved the voice-activation system, which now offers a faster response time and responds to a more natural vocabulary instead of a rigid set of commands.

Another first is a feature that lets you control certain functions by just pointing your fingers. The driver or front passenger can raise or lower the stereo volume, accept or reject phone calls, and activate a preassigned function by gesturing at the center screen. If the test-drive experience is any indication, the driver has to become accustomed to using the system before it operates flawlessly.



A chauffeured drive through the nearby Catskills in another 750i xDrive provides a chance to sample the model's limousine features. This car is equipped with the Executive Lounge Seating Package, which includes amenities that Habib says are modeled after a business-class airline seat. The front passenger seat folds forward, giving me plenty of room to use the adjustable footrest.

A tray table large enough for an iPad or small laptop folds out from the center console, and small touchscreens from Samsung, used to control various cabin functions, are embedded in the back of each front seat.

The rear seats are broadly adjustable. They are also heated and ventilated and equipped with a massage feature. The massage feels pleasant enough—more of a pressing sensation than a rolling one, like the S-Class's seats deliver—but it will not take the place of a good session at a day spa. There is no need for an air freshener: The optional Ambient Air package wafts a selected fragrance through the ventilation system.

As with most BMWs, the ride is comfortable but not numbing. The adaptive air suspension keeps the car settled as we traverse weather-beaten roads, but even in comfort mode the 7 Series feels more firmly sprung than the cushiony S-Class. The cabin is also exceptionally quiet, with acoustics optimized for the optional 1,400-watt, 16-speaker Bowers & Wilkins audio system.

If the understated appearance and subtle styling updates on the 7 Series do not immediately impress you, spend some time with the car—behind the wheel or behind a driver. Heed the advice of BMW's racecar driver and be patient. The car's charms will reveal themselves soon enough. **R**

BMW, bmwusa.com



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By Jill Newman
Photography by Lisa Charles Watson
Styling by Charles W. Bumgardner

FROM FAR LEFT: **Kwiat** diamond-and-platinum earrings, each with a 3-carat diamond drop, price upon request (212.725.7777, kwiat.com); **Chanel Fine Jewelry** diamond necklace in white gold, price upon request (800.550.0005, chanel.com); **Van Cleef & Arpels** diamond bird earrings in white gold, price upon request (877.826.2533, vancleefarpels.com).



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: **Deborah Pagani** gray-diamond ring in oxidized white gold, \$7,950 (212.359.9688, deborahpagani.com); **Sylva & Cie** 3.4-carat marquise diamond ring set in gold with additional diamonds and enamel, \$75,625 (at Judith Ann Jewels, 713.871.1074, judithannjewels.com); **Suzanne Kalan** diamond-and-gold ring with a white topaz, \$13,200 (info@suzannekalan.com, suzannekalan.com); **H. Stern** diamond-and-gold star-shaped ring, \$6,600 (212.655.3910, hstern.net); **Forevermark by Jade Trau** diamond-and-platinum ring, price upon request (forevermark.com); **Chanel Fine Jewelry** diamond-and-gold lion ring, \$8,900, (800.550.0005, chanel.com); **Cartier** diamond ring in white gold with rock crystal, price upon request (800.227.8437, cartier.us).



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sanjaykasliwal.com).



Chanel Fine Jewelry diamond-and-gold earrings, \$21,800 (800.550.0005, chanel.com); **Graff** diamond-and-platinum bracelet, price upon request (212.355.9292, graffdiamonds.com); **Fernando Jorge** rose-gold ring with diamonds and white sapphires (at Barneys New York, 212.826.8900, barneys.com).

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CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: **Forevermark by Jade Trau** brilliant-cut-diamond bracelet in white and yellow gold, price upon request (forevermark.com); **Nirav Modi** diamond-and-white-gold ring, price upon request (212.603.0000, niravmodi.com); **Roberto Coin** diamond-and-white-gold ring, \$6,900 (robertocoin.com); **Stephen Webster** three-finger diamond ring in white gold, \$48,000 (310.246.9500, stephenwebster.com); **Pasquale Bruni** diamond-and-white-gold ring, \$13,600 (800.868.5532, pasqualebruni.com).

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AS LUCK MAY

THE OWNER OF *SUERTE* had two nonnegotiable requests for its design: The interior had to be modern, comfortable, and welcoming enough for him to feel as though he were coming home whenever he came aboard; and there had to be a separate entrance and set of passageways for the crewmembers, so that he and his guests could enjoy their privacy. Charter clients will appreciate those features—and others—as much as *Suerte*'s owner does.

The 228-foot trideck, whose name is the Spanish word for “luck,” is the first launch by Italy’s Tankoa Yachts; it debuted at the Monaco Yacht Show in September. It accommodates 12 guests and a crew of 17, including the captain.

The Florence-based designer Francesco Paszkowski included spacious social areas on each of *Suerte*'s decks. The interior decor, selected by Paszkowski’s partner, Margherita Casprini, includes teak, oak, black slate, Jerusalem stone, and various types of leather, marble, and onyx. Notable amenities include a main saloon that also serves as a 16-person cinema room and a sky-deck swimming pool with a glass bottom that serves as a skylight for the saloon below. Carbon filters limit emissions, and advanced soundproofing reduces engine noise, making *Suerte* exceptionally green and quiet.

HAVE IT

The personal preferences of *Suerte's* owner make the new 228-foot Tankoa yacht ideal for chartering. BY MICHAEL VERDON



AS LUCK MAY HAVE IT



The image shows the interior of the upper-deck saloon of the yacht Suerte. The room features a curved wooden ceiling with recessed lighting. A large flat-screen television is mounted on a dark wall, displaying a boat on the water. Below the TV is a long, low, metallic-looking console. In the foreground, there is a dark grey armchair and a low wooden table. The floor is made of light-colored wood. In the background, there are two modern chairs and a large, polished metal bowl. The overall atmosphere is warm and luxurious.

SOCIAL GRACES ♦ *Suerte* features numerous indoor and outdoor entertaining spaces, including two interior saloons. The upper-deck saloon (shown here) has a lounge area, an 8-foot fireplace, a 90-inch video screen, a game table, a baby grand piano, and a sushi bar. The eight-panel skylight doubles as the glass bottom of the swimming pool on the deck above.

A sliding wall can convert a portion of the saloon into an additional guest cabin.



UNDERSTATED ENTRY ♦ *Suerte's*

main entryway is modeled after a winter garden. It features floor-to-ceiling windows with wooden slats, a black-slate floor, and an anodized-aluminum bar in the shape of an airplane wing. It also has separate entrances for guests and crewmembers, and a stairway that leads down to the beach club.





WINE AND DINE ♦ A meal aboard *Suerte* can be a multisensory experience. The food is prepared in a galley designed by one of Italy's top restaurateurs, and served in a dining room that features a large tropical fish tank and a custom-made glass wine cabinet. The cabinet can prominently display as many as four dozen bottles from the yacht's climate-controlled pantries, which hold a total of about 600 bottles.



MOVIE NIGHTS ♦ The focal point of the main saloon, located aft of the dining room, is an 88-inch curved Samsung video screen set into a black-slate wall. The room can comfortably accommodate 16 guests. While the outdoor areas attract guests during the day, the saloon serves as a popular gathering spot in the evening.



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ROOM WITH A VIEW ♦ Guests can enjoy a panoramic view from the master suite, which is located on the forward portion of the upper deck. The suite is furnished with a king-size bed and includes an office and an expansive bathroom. The adjacent private terrace houses a 20-foot-long lounge and a four-person Jacuzzi.



DETAILS, DETAILS ♦ The VIP bathroom (above left) features a stand-alone Corian bathtub and a black-granite shower. In an upper-deck lobby (above right), a rustic wooden wall sculpture exemplifies the yacht's contemporary decor.

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AS LUCK MAY HAVE IT



GREAT OUTDOORS ♦ *Suerte* offers opportunities to enjoy the sun and the ocean breezes on each of its three decks, including the upper deck (above), where the terrace is furnished with a dining table and L-shaped sofas. The 38-foot-wide main deck (below) features a wraparound sofa that seats as many as 20 guests. The deck also provides access from the entry area to the beach club below.



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CATCHING RAYS ♦ The sky deck features a 16-foot pool (top) with a swim-up bar. The open space at the rear of the deck (above right) can be used for sunbathing or dancing, and it converts into a helipad. *Suerte's* beach club (above left) is separated from the swim platform by glass doors and is equipped with a sauna, a white-marble Turkish bath, a massage room, and a full bathroom. In front of the beach club is a tender garage housing personal watercraft, underwater sleds, and two 23-foot tenders. 

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All-American Perspective

From 18th-century weather vanes to contemporary canvases, a fashion mogul has assembled a collection that spans the nation's history.

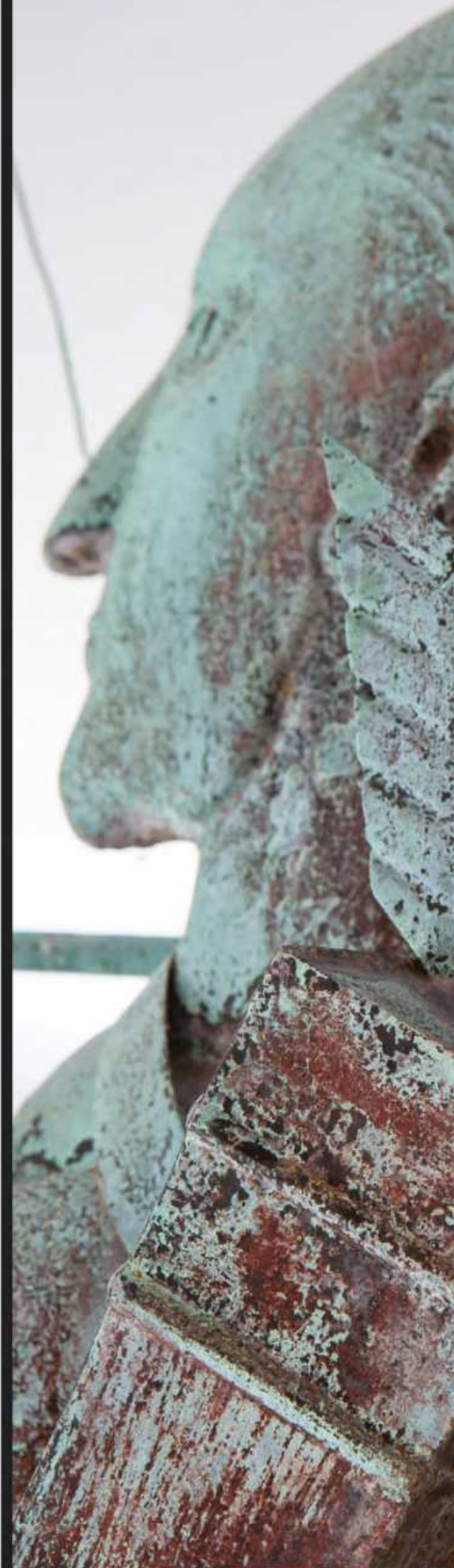


BY SHEILA GIBSON STOODLEY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CORDERO STUDIOS

In October, the American Folk Art Museum honored Jerry Lauren (above) for his rare and eclectic collection.

Jerry Lauren's Manhattan apartment reflects his life as a whole: It looks effortlessly perfect, but it is the result of decades of toil and thought. First your eye is drawn to the living room, where an exquisite trio of 19th-century duck decoys—a Gus Wilson eider, a Canada goose by an unknown carver, and a Lothrop Holmes merganser—command your attention. Soon, however, the airy space reveals a host of other treasures—19th-century weather vanes, wooden folk carvings, works by outsider artists—that compose one of the world's finest assemblages of rare American art and collectibles.

Lauren, an executive of the Ralph Lauren Corp. and an older brother of its founder, is eager to show off his collection, a thoughtful, ever-evolving mix of big and small, antique and modern. He has created a







Lauren's apartment is filled wall to wall with period treasures. His first masterpiece acquisition was a 19th-century weather vane (below).

place where Buddy L toy trucks coexist with Civil War-era stoneware jugs, where a limited-edition hand weight by Man Ray and a late-18th-century tankard by Myer Myers share the same tabletop, and where a Jean-Michel Basquiat hangs above a work on paper by Bill Traylor, each drawing energy from the other. "The things

in my apartment, they go together," Lauren says. "No matter what age they are, they work." Just do not call the collection *Americana*. "I like to call it American art, or American folk art," he says.

Lauren's vision is receiving its due: He was one of the headline honorees at the American Folk Art Museum's October benefit gala in Manhattan. Nancy Druckman, the former senior vice president and head of the department of American folk art at Sotheby's New York, introduced him at the event. She was also standing at the podium in 2006 when Lauren made a record-breaking \$5.8 million bid for a J. L. Mott weather vane. "He is a perfectionist—an über-perfectionist—and he comes from a family where this is a well-established capability," she says. "He's connected the dots between seemingly disparate categories of objects, the continuity being the quality of the things and the recognition that all of this material is part of a continuum of American art. He goes from waterfowl decoys to Bill Traylor to Basquiat. I think what's very interesting about Jerry and probably fairly

unique is his ability to see these relationships and then go for it."

IT IS NO SURPRISE that Lauren, executive vice president and creative director for men's design at Ralph Lauren—a company that epitomizes American style—displays his pieces well. The space, however, would seem more at home in a contemporary art gallery than in a 1923 Manhattan apartment. With its minimalist white walls and streamlined custom furnishings, Lauren's home is designed specifically to let the collection shine. "When you put them in a pristine, glass-enclosed white interior, they start showing up as masterpieces," he says.

The spark that gave rise to the collection was not kindled in the city. In the early 1980s, Lauren and his wife, Susan, bought a weekend home in Connecticut. Surrounded by 60 acres of woodlands and dating to 1785, the home begged to be filled with period objects that reflected its rustic, early-American origins. "We didn't know what we were buying, just a lot of fun stuff," says Lauren, who still owns the rural retreat. "We



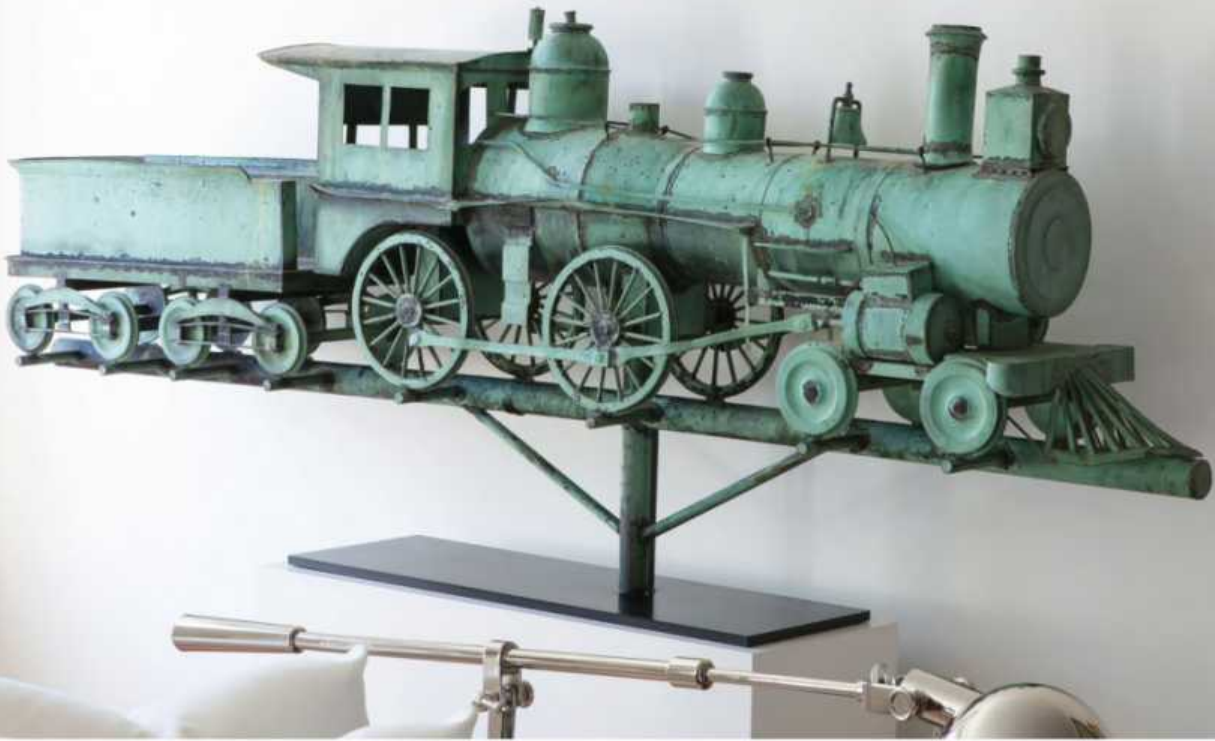
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This circa-1890 model of a locomotive engine once topped a Massachusetts railroad building; a 1785 wooden rooster is the oldest weather vane in Lauren's collection.



looked for things that looked good in the house. We didn't look to build a collection."

As the pair went to more shows and gained more knowledge, they had an epiphany: "My God, this is really important sculpture, and it happens to be American," Lauren recalls thinking. "It burst out of the country house and became important art."

When he and Susan relocated their main residence from East 66th Street to Park Avenue about 22 years ago, they acted on their idea to install choice pieces in a more gallerylike setting. "I don't know if it was radical," he says, "but I tell you something, it was what I wanted and what my wife wanted. A very, very light, uncluttered atmosphere. It worked out. It was a very new way to show it, and it worked."

Lauren's appetite for American antiques and folk art sharpened after he met dealers Sy and Susan Rapa-
port in the mid-1980s. In particular, he had a good feeling about Sy on first sight: He was wearing a Polo sweater. Lauren was fresh off his first big purchase, a hackney-horse weather vane that he secured for

\$7,000. He solicited Sy's opinion and learned that it was in fact a 1950s replica. Lauren returned it to the seller and has consulted the Rapa-ports ever since.

That experience did not put Lauren off of weather vanes—far from it. They form the backbone of the collection and range from a detailed locomotive engine made around 1890 for the top of a railroad building in Massachusetts to a regal rooster from 1785 that once graced a church in Maine to a leaping stag from 1875, fashioned from copper and frozen in flight. One example depicting a polo player—created between 1880 and 1890, apparently for a polo club in Maryland—had a natural appeal for Lauren, given his day job, but that was not why he bought the piece. "It's an amazing form—it looks like a Stubbs painting," he says. "This is art."

Another 19th-century weather vane—depicting a Native American clutching his bow in one hand and an arrow in the other—holds a particularly important place in Lauren's collection. "This, to me, was the first masterpiece we bought," he says,

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Lauren set an auction record in 2006 when he bid \$5.8 million for a weather vane depicting a Native American archer (above). Below: Civil War-era stoneware jugs.



recalling the moment when he and Susan spotted it about 25 years ago at the annual Winter Antiques Show in New York City. “This was when we learned how to look at weather vanes. This is the most perfect specimen of weather vane you can find.”

The weather vane that represents Lauren’s greatest adventure at auction takes pride of place in his Manhattan dining room. Standing 5 feet, 2 inches tall, created circa 1900, it depicts a Native American pulling back his bow. Lauren’s \$5.8 million bid for the piece at the 2006 Sotheby’s sale set a world auction record for a weather vane, and the item remains one of the costliest pieces of folk art ever sold at auction.

“It had an inordinately low estimate on it,” Lauren says—Sotheby’s presale numbers were only \$100,000 to \$150,000. “Everybody who saw that weather vane said, ‘Jerry, that’s going to be a very expensive item. You are going to pay in the millions.’ I sat there and watched it go up. At \$3.8 million, I raised my hand for the first time. ‘Sy,’ I said, ‘I’m going

for it.’” He likens the sensation of bidding and winning to “an out-of-body experience” and still enjoys telling the story of unmasking himself as its winning bidder: “Friends said, ‘We just saw what it sold for, sorry you didn’t get it.’ ‘Really? I got it?’ They almost fell down.”

The record-breaking weather vane is displayed in front of a mirror, across from a group of framed works on paper by the late outsider artist Bill Traylor. “I have 20 of his acknowledged best,” Lauren says, and he increases their number when he can. At the opening night of last year’s Winter Antiques Show, he picked up a Traylor cat image. “Grabbed it in about 3 seconds.”

Another Traylor appears in the vestibule in a powerful trio that Lauren dubs the “story of fury”: The Traylor’s angry red background harmonizes with the energy of *Furious Man*, a 1982 work on paper by Basquiat, which Lauren acquired at Christie’s almost three years ago. A 1970s-era painted cheetah carving by the late folk artist Felipe Archuleta



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Lauren enjoys the energy conveyed in this sculpture of a polo player on horseback.



completes the group. “As we say in the fashion world, the three pieces are a moment,” Lauren says.

THE RULES Lauren follows as a collector are few but firm: Never buy to invest. (“That’s really important.

That’s a no-no.”) Never buy anything you do not want to live with. (“Not one thing is in storage. When I buy something, I don’t collect to put it in a closet. I love to show it.”) And, of course, only pursue the best of the best. (“It’s not about the money—I

can afford anything. If I fall in love with something, I manage to get it. But I only want to get it if it’s brilliant.”)

Sy Rapaport commends Lauren’s excellent eye and boundless patience to wait for ultra-choice items to come up for sale. “Most collectors don’t have the discipline, but all the great collectors do,” he says. “Great collectors wait 50 years for the piece that they’re missing.”

Lauren—and his enthusiasm for collecting—suffered a terrible blow when his wife succumbed to lung cancer in 2008. He continues to seek spectacular things, but he feels her loss keenly and misses her counsel. “If I ever bought something Susan didn’t like, it was a mistake, and I got it out of the house very quickly,” he says. “I was very angry when she passed away, and angry at God. For two or three years, I didn’t look at the walls. I didn’t want to come home.”

Today, though, the collection that they started as a weekend diversion and built together has also become something that evokes her spirit. “The love we had, the love for quality, the love for good taste,” Lauren says, “I think that’s there.” And he does indeed look at the walls, and the pieces in his collection, every day. “It has made my life full and been one of its greatest blessings,” he says. “It energizes me. I see it in the morning, I see it in the evening. If I don’t take a moment to look at it, it’s a rare moment. It has beautified my life. It’s the closest thing to perfection that I know.” ■

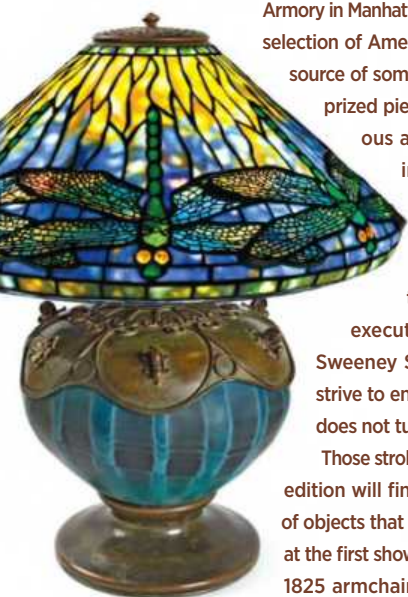
A Fresh Eye on Antiques

The annual **Winter Antiques Show** (winterantiquesshow.com) at the Park Avenue Armory in Manhattan is known for its strong selection of Americana and has been the source of some of Jerry Lauren’s most prized pieces. The oldest continuous annual show of its type in the United States—its 62nd edition takes place January 22 to 31, 2016—the event has aged well thanks to the efforts of executive director Catherine Sweeney Singer and others who strive to ensure that the show itself does not turn into a museum piece.

Those strolling the aisles of the 2016 edition will find superlative examples of objects that could have been offered at the first show in 1955, such as a circa-1825 armchair attributed to Duncan Phyfe at Hirsch & Adler (\$130,000) or a mid-19th-century running-horse weather vane on display at Olde Hope Antiques (\$45,000). Other expected highlights, however—such as Conner Rosenkranz’s

circa-1920 salamander-king fire screen by William Hunt (\$95,000) and the Tiffany dragonfly table lamp (\$225,000) glowing in the booth of the Macklowe Gallery—would not have made the cut in 1955 because they were too new (the fire screen) or out of fashion (the Tiffany lamp). Other noteworthy items would not have been on offer even five years ago, such as the Qianlong-era map of China (\$617) that will be shown by Daniel Crouch Rare Books, one of several dealers based in the United Kingdom who joined the fair’s lineup in 2015. Its inclusion reflects the interest of younger collectors, who are showing a fondness for maps, jewelry, and rare books.

While about one-third of its exhibitors handle Americana, the show offers a broad and challenging mix that keeps loyal patrons coming back while luring in newer collectors. “Across the board, the definition of a collector has changed,” Singer says. “They are eclectic now. They might love mid-century-modern Danish furniture and 18th-century Old Master drawings. It’s fun to watch.” —S.G.S.



This Tiffany dragonfly table lamp is being offered by the Macklowe Gallery.

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GIFT WRAPPERS

(and Fillers and Binders)

IN TIME FOR the winter holiday season, when cigar buying peaks, we offer our annual look at the most enticing new selections (and a perennial favorite). These offerings include rare limited editions, revivals of formerly forgotten shapes, and cigars made with tobaccos from previously untapped regions. →

BY **Richard Carleton Hacker**
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **Cordero Studios**
STYLING BY **Alicia Buszczak**





INTO THE LIGHT

Davidoff Winston Churchill Short Series

Unlike other Churchill cigars, Davidoff's new offering does not require an hour to enjoy. The cigar, which is available in two sizes—a $4\frac{1}{2} \times 46$ belicoso and a 4×38 petit panatela—features an oily Habano Ecuador wrapper, a sweet Pelo de Oro Visus binder, and Dominican and Nicaraguan filler. Both versions provide plenty of rich flavor that can be enjoyed in less than 30 minutes. (\$29–\$31.75 for a tin of four or five) davidoff.com

Padrón Dámaso

Padrón has built a reputation around its Nicaraguan *puros*, whose strength rivals that of many Cuban cigars, but it has also recently introduced a milder cigar called the Dámaso, after the grandfather of José Padrón, the family-owned brand's patriarch. Like Padrón's *puros*, the Dámaso features Nicaraguan tobaccos aged for at least 3 years, but it has an Ecuadorian Connecticut wrapper. Together these tobaccos produce a gentle floral-and-wheat flavor that pairs best with Irish whiskeys. Padrón offers four sizes, of which the No. 12 (a 5×50 robusto) is our favorite. (\$12.50–\$17.50) padron.com

Warped La Colmena

This cigar, which is named after the Spanish word for “beehive,” is produced at the El Titan de Bronce factory in the Calle Ocho district of Miami's Little Havana, though it embodies many traits of cigars rolled in Cuba: a triple-capped pigtail head, filler bunched with a traditional Cuban scrolled technique (called *entubado*), and an enclosed “Cuban” foot. The cigar features an Ecuadorian Deflorada wrapper and Nicaraguan and Dominican fillers, which combine to deliver milk-chocolate and light caramel flavors. Two sizes are available, a 6×36 petit lancero and a $5\frac{1}{2} \times 44$ corona extra. (\$12.50–\$14.50) warpedcigars.com

Above, from left: Padrón Dámaso, Warped La Colmena, and Davidoff Winston Churchill Short Series.

CELEBRATORY SMOKES

Partagás Aniversario

To commemorate the 170th anniversary of its Partagás brand, General Cigar has created the Aniversario cigar, which incorporates ligero and viso tobacco leaves from the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua (including a proprietary Nicaraguan Gurdian leaf) and a Connecticut Habano binder. The crowning glory is a 5-year-old Cameroon wrapper, which imparts a sophisticated spice. The cigar is rolled in three sizes—a 5 × 50 robusto, a 6 × 54 toro, and a 7¼ × 54 salomon (our favorite)—and limited to 15,000 examples per size, which are available primarily

in anniversary chests of 10 each. (\$159.90–\$179.90 per box) cigarworld.com

Rocky Patel 20th Anniversary

Twenty years ago, Rocky Patel transitioned from a career as a Hollywood attorney and launched his own cigar brand. To mark the occasion, he has produced an anniversary smoke that offers a medium-full body, thanks to filler tobaccos sourced from Nicaragua (in Estelí and Jalapa) and Honduras (in Jamastran) and a Honduran wrapper. The box-pressed cigar is available in five sizes—ranging from a 7½ × 38 lancero to a 6 × 60

toro—and is worthy of a snifter of the Macallan Fine Oak 30 Year Old. (\$9.65–\$12.80) rockypatel.com

Fuente Fuente OpusX

Though previous attempts by others had failed, Carlito Fuente proved in 1995 that it was possible to grow a flavorful Dominican wrapper and use it to make a Dominican *puro*. The result, the Fuente Fuente OpusX, has become one of the world's most sought-after and elusive cigars. Smoking it, in any of its numerous sizes, is akin to dining on a Kobe filet mignon, seared medium-rare. (\$12–\$26) cigarfamily.com

Below, from left: Partagás Aniversario (left and foreground), Rocky Patel 20th Anniversary, and Fuente Fuente OpusX.





DAY INTO NIGHT

Avo Syncro Nicaragua

Named for the way it synchronizes the divergent flavors of Dominican and Nicaraguan tobaccos, the Avo Syncro Nicaragua is the brand's first box-pressed cigar. It is made with an Ecuadoran Connecticut wrapper and a Dominican binder, but its soul is its Dominican and Nicaraguan filler, specifically the tobacco from Nicaragua's volcanic island of Ometepe, which gives the Syncro its sweet and peppery notes. The cigar is available as a robusto, a short robusto, a toro, and a special toro, and is the first in a new series for the brand. (\$7.90–\$10.90) *avo.com*

La Aroma de Cuba Noblesse

When this cigar debuted last year as a 6½ × 52 toro, the 3,000 boxes (each containing two dozen cigars) that were produced by My Father Cigars in Nicaragua quickly sold out. The demand prompted the reintroduction of the cigar, which features all-Nicaraguan filler tobaccos from Estelí, Jalapa, and Namanji, as well as an Ecuadoran Habano rosado wrapper and a Criollo double binder. It is now available in two sizes: a 6½ × 52 toro (called the Coronation) and a 5½ × 50 robusto (known as the Regency). Only 2,500 boxes have been released, and each contains 24 cigars. (\$336–\$384 per box) *ashtoncigar.com*

La Matilde Renacer

Jose Seijas, who served as the vice president and general manager of

the Tabacalera de García factory in the Dominican Republic for more than 30 years before retiring in 2012, recently resurrected the long-defunct Dominican brand La Matilde. The new Tabacalera Matilde's first cigar is the Renacer. It delivers a sweet, floral smoke with a subtle, lingering spice. The brand offers four sizes, including a 6½ × 54 toro grande that pairs well with a Facundo Exquisito rum. (\$7.50–\$9) *matildecigars.com*

Foundry Tobacco Company Ramón Allones

The Ramón Allones features a proprietary Nicaraguan binder, an all-Nicaraguan filler, and an oily Ecuadoran Sumatra wrapper. The cigar is mild, but it features hearty spices and a smooth, clean finish. Three sizes are available: a 5 × 50, a 6 × 60, and a 6 × 52. (\$6.49–\$7.49) *foundrytobaccocompany.com*

CAO Pilon

The CAO brand drew notice when it introduced cigars made from Italian and Colombian tobaccos, and it is turning heads again with the release of the Pilon. The cigar features a Cuban-seed Ecuadoran wrapper that has been subjected to *pilon* fermentation, an old Cuban technique in which bunches of tobacco leaves are arranged in small circular piles instead of larger bales. This slows the fermentation process, producing more pronounced flavors. The cigar also features filler and binder leaves from Estelí and Ometepe, which impart spicy sweetness and

medium-strength flavor. Three sizes are available: a Churchill, a robusto, and a corona. (\$6–\$7.25) *cigarworld.com*

Hamlet Tabaquero

Hamlet Paredes, who was once a master blender in Havana, left Canada in February and settled in Bonita Springs, Fla., where he has established his own brand (under the sponsorship of Rocky Patel). The label's first cigar—and the first cigar that Paredes has made from non-Cuban tobaccos—is the Hamlet Tabaquero, an earthy, medium- to full-bodied smoke comprising a San Andreas wrapper, all-Nicaraguan filler, and a double binder made from Brazilian Mata Fina and San Andreas leaves. (\$8.60–\$9.80) *rockypatel.com*



E.P. Carrillo New Wave Reserva

Last year Ernesto Perez-Carrillo introduced the Reserva, a medium-bodied offshoot of his much milder New Wave Connecticut Short Run. It was originally released in Europe and is now available in the United States. The Ecuadoran Connecticut oscuro wrapper has an unusually dark color and deep taste, which complements that of the Connecticut broadleaf binder and works in harmony with the Nicaraguan and Dominican filler. Of the eight European Reserva shapes, four are new this year: a 5½ × 44 corona extra, a 5¾ × 52 belicoso d'oro, a 6 7/8 × 49 elegantes, and a 7¼ × 54 soberanos real. (\$6.65–\$8.50) *epcarrillo.com*

Opposite, clockwise from top left: La Matilde Renacer, CAO Pilon, Foundry Tobacco Company Ramón Allones (preproduction band shown), Hamlet Tabaquero, La Aroma de Cuba Noblesse, and Avo Syncro Nicaragua. Above: E.P. Carrillo New Wave Reserva.



LIMITED EDITIONS

Quesada Reserva Privada

A medium-mild cigar, the Quesada Reserva Privada features Dominican Republic San Vicente tobacco that began aging in 1997. The San Vicente leaf is used for the binder and mixed with Pennsylvania ligero for the filler. The cigar, which is finished with an Ecuadoran Connecticut-seed wrapper, has an essence of freshly toasted white bread dusted with white pepper. Three sizes are available: a $4\frac{3}{4} \times 52$, a $5\frac{5}{8} \times 54$, and a $6\frac{1}{2} \times 56$. (\$12.95–\$14.95) quesadacigars.com

Trinidad Lost Blends

About four years ago, a group of cigar makers at Altadis (the Grupo de Maestros) created a small selection of Trinidads made from a 2011-vintage Indonesian shade-grown wrapper, a 2010-vintage Dominican binder, and a filler blend of Connecticut broadleaf, Dominican Olor, and Piloto Cubano tobaccos. The company stored the cigars in a cedar aging room and then forgot about them; only recently were they discovered and subsequently released, in two sizes: a $6\frac{1}{8} \times 54$ belicoso and a $5\frac{3}{4} \times 52$ salomon. (\$9.25–\$9.50) altadisusa.com

Macanudo Estate Reserve 2015

The Macanudo brand has been based in the Dominican Republic for more than a decade, but it began in Jamaica. Last year the brand returned to its roots by offering the limited-edition Macanudo Estate Reserve, a cigar that featured a small amount of Jamaican leaf in its filler. This year it released a cigar that showcases a filler blend featuring a proprietary Jamaican leaf known as Silver Tongue. The wrapper is a 10-year-old Connecticut broadleaf, and the binder is a tobacco sourced from San Andres, Mexico. This cigar is one to savor in any of three sizes: $5\frac{1}{2} \times 50$, 6×57 , and 7×50 . (\$16–\$18) cigarworld.com

Dunhill Signed Range Selección Suprema

Although now made in Nicaragua, the Dunhill Selección Suprema originated in Cuba in 1935 when Alfred Dunhill asked Cándido Vega Díaz, owner of the El Rey del Mundo brand, to make a cigar for his London-based company. The result was the Don Candido and the start of Dunhill's Selección Suprema series. To celebrate the 80th anniversary of this line of exclusive cigars, Dunhill has

released 2,500 boxes (each containing eight 6×50 toros), only 300 of which have been reserved for the United States. With a Nicaragua Jalapa shade wrapper; fillers of Estelí, Jalapa, and Brazilian Mata Fina tobaccos; and a hearty Connecticut broadleaf binder, the Selección Suprema delivers notes of cedar, licorice, and milk chocolate worthy of a single-malt whisky. (\$160 per box) cigarworld.com

My Father Limited Edition— Fifth Anniversary

Each year from 2010 through 2013, My Father Cigars released a limited edition that was hand-rolled by the company's owner, José "Pepin" Garcia. After a year's hiatus, the heralded cigar is back. The new release features an oily Habano Ecuadoran rosado oscuro wrapper, a Corojo 2006 and Cuban-seed double binder, and filler tobaccos from the Garcias' farms in Nicaragua. The cigar, which is available only as a $6\frac{1}{2} \times 52$ toro extra, delivers flavors of lightly tanned leather and cocoa. The company has produced only 4,200 boxes, each containing 14 cigars. (\$325 per box) myfathercigars.com

Opposite, from left: My Father Limited Edition—Fifth Anniversary, Macanudo Estate Reserve 2015, and Quesada Reserva Privada.



MUSCLE CIGARS

Camacho American Barrel-Aged

Camacho has put a U.S. spin on the old Cuban cigar-making technique of maturing tobacco in rum barrels. The company has aged 6-year-old Honduran Corojo filler leaves in Kentucky bourbon barrels. After five months of maturation, those leaves were combined with Connecticut and Pennsylvania broadleaf maduro tobaccos and paired with a Connecticut broadleaf wrapper and binder. The result is a hefty Dominican cigar that wraps the palate in sweet and sour smoky essences. Three sizes are produced: a 5 × 50 robusto, a 6 × 50 toro, and a 6 × 60 gordo. (\$10–\$12) *camachocigars.com*

Foundry Tobacco Company Bolivar

This cigar, named after the Venezuelan military and political leader who led the South American revolution against Spain, was recently overhauled. It now

features a new hybrid Habano Connecticut wrapper, an Ecuadoran binder, and a filler blend of Dominican, Honduran, Mexican, and Nicaraguan tobaccos. The combination delivers mouth-filling flavors of sweet, powerful spice. All three sizes feature an untrimmed “wild” foot. (\$6.49–\$7.49) *foundrytobacco.com*

Rocky Patel Special Reserve Sun Grown Maduro

Not to be confused with the original, medium-bodied Rocky Patel Sun Grown cigar, with its Ecuadoran Sumatra wrapper, this much heftier Connecticut broadleaf maduro version is darker in color and substantially stronger in taste. Triple-capped over a double Nicaraguan binder and sporting an all-Nicaraguan filler, the cigar is, according to Patel, “rich and decadent.” It pairs well with a snifter of Russell’s Reserve 1998 bourbon. Of the five available

sizes, the 5 × 52 petit belicoso is our choice for a winter-evening smoke. (\$8.60–\$10.40) *rockypatel.com*

Heritage by Dunhill

While it may be milder than the other strong cigars that we are spotlighting, the Heritage is Dunhill’s most robust offering. It is made from an Ecuadoran Habano ligero wrapper and a filler blend that includes 10-year-old Nicaraguan Ometepe, 8-year-old Honduran Jamastran, and 3-year-old Nicaraguan leaf from Estelí. A Nicaraguan Jalapa binder completes this complex and spicy smoke. Our favorite of the four sizes is the 6 × 60 gigante, which will pair well with a flute of Bollinger 2002 La Grande Année on New Year’s Eve. (\$10.15–\$12.95) *cigarworld.com*

Opposite, from left:
Foundry Tobacco
Company Bolivar
(preproduction
band shown),
Heritage by
Dunhill, Camacho
American Barrel-
Aged, and Rocky
Patel Special
Reserve Sun
Grown Maduro.

ONE SIZE FITS ALL

EPC La Historia Regalias d'Celia

In 2009, Ernesto Perez-Carrillo moved on from his La Gloria Cubana brand and formed EPC Cigar Company. Five years later he created La Historia—a line of full-bodied, box-pressed cigars—to honor his family. The latest addition to that line, Regalias d'Celia (a 5 $\frac{7}{8}$ × 58 torpedo), pays tribute to his wife's grandmother and features a Mexican San Andres wrapper, an Ecuadoran Sumatra binder, and a Nicaraguan filler blend. The cigar is both strong and elegant. (\$9.50) epcarrillo.com

San Cristobal Ovation

Produced in the My Father Cigars factory, this full-bodied smoke features a San Andres oscuro wrapper that has undergone a 2.5-year fermentation. The lengthy process deepens the tobacco's

flavor and enables it to match the cigar's double Nicaraguan binder and all-Nicaraguan filler. The cigar, which pairs well with a Hennessy Paradis, is available only as a 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ × 52 toro and is packed 22 to a box. Only 3,000 boxes have been released. (\$330 per box) ashtoncigar.com

Espada by Montecristo Estoque

Named after the *estoque de torero*—the traditional sword used by matadors—this cigar is a follow-up to last year's Espada by Montecristo. Like its predecessor, the Estoque is a Nicaraguan *puro*, but it comprises a different blend that uses tobaccos from three regions of Nicaragua. The wrapper is made from Cuban-seed Viso Jalapa Vintage 2013, and two of the filler tobaccos also come from the 2013 harvest, giving the Estoque a

smooth richness. The cigar is available only as a 6 × 50 torpedo. (\$14.50) altadisusa.com

Henry Clay Tattoo

This latest “tattooed” version of the Henry Clay cigar is stronger than the original. Pete Johnson, owner of Tatuaje Cigars (*tatuaje* means “tattoo” in Spanish), collaborated on the new blend, which is composed of older vintages of the cigar's original Connecticut broadleaf wrapper and Dominican binder. It also features a stronger filler thanks to the addition of Ometepe Criollo tobacco from Nicaragua. The combination delivers a full-bodied smoke with hints of shoe leather and pumpkin mixed with curry and molasses. The only size produced is a box-pressed 6 × 52 toro with a pigtail cap. (\$9.50) altadisusa.com 

San Cristobal
Ovation



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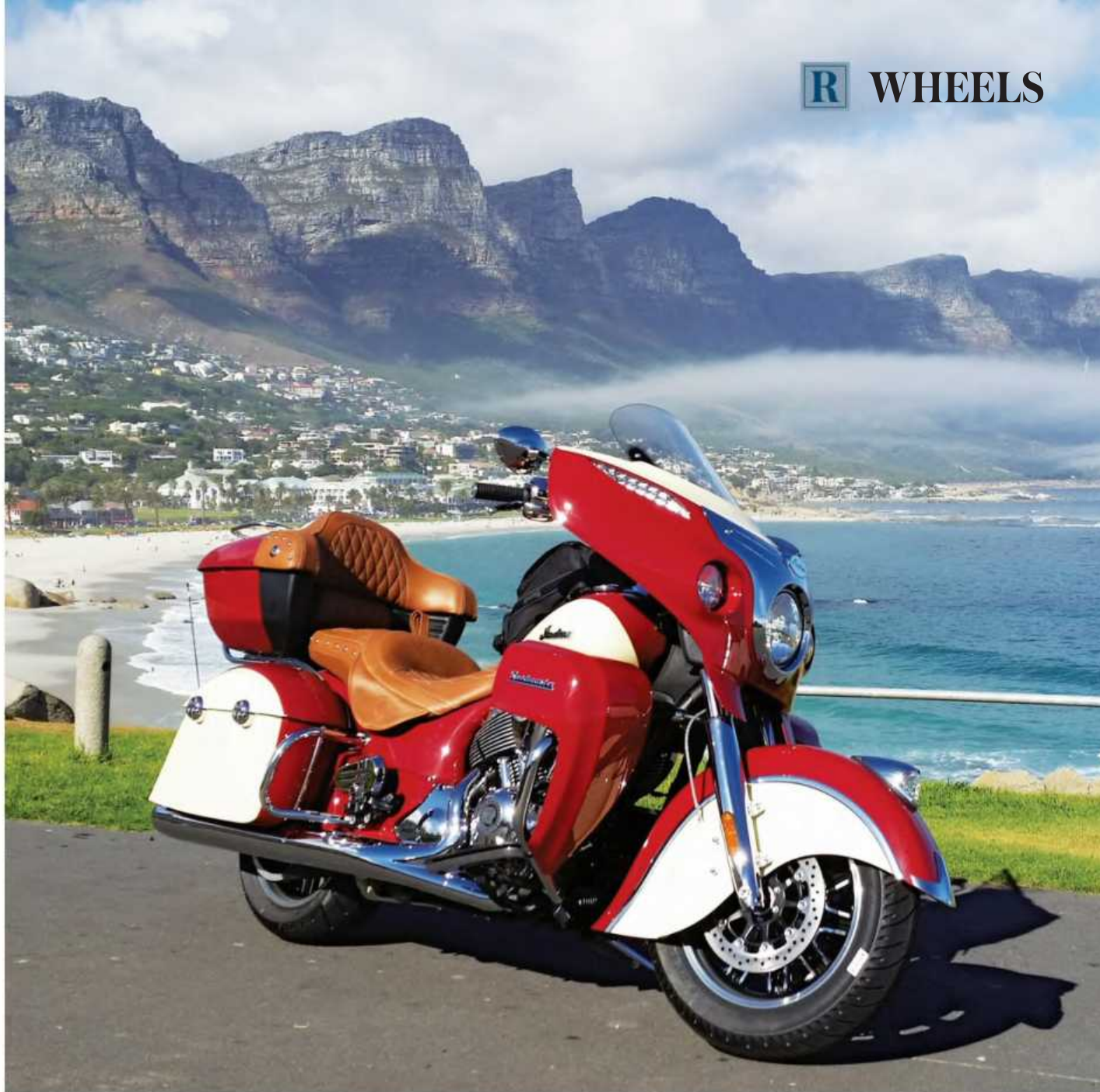
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Borne to the Wild

AN INDIAN ROADMASTER CARRIES ITS RIDER ALONG SOUTH AFRICA'S SCENIC COASTAL ROADS TO THE COUNTRY'S PRIVATE GAME RESERVES. **BY CHRISTOPHER P. BAKER**

Though built for long-distance touring, the Roadmaster showed its agility on the twisty mountain road leading to Hout Bay.

AN HOUR INTO a 10-day journey across South Africa, the Indian Roadmaster full-dress tourer was already proving its prowess as it powered up the cliff-side curves of Chapman's Peak Drive, a highway at the southwestern extremity of the continent. When the floorboard scraped the pavement, it was a signal to ease off the throttle and reduce the bike's lean on the switchbacks. The 1,811 cc V-twin Thunder Stroke engine adjusted smoothly, enabling the bike to effortlessly trace the coastal road as it crested and dipped down to Hout Bay on the Atlantic coast, about



|||||
The route from Addo Elephant National Park (above right) led to the Great Fish River Lodge (top and above left).
|||||

12 miles south of Cape Town.

The scenery evoked California's Big Sur, with clouds pouring over sheer mountain faces in slow-motion waves, and breakers crashing on the wind-scoured beaches below. There was a chill in the air, but seated in the heated saddle and behind the bike's wraparound fairing, I barely noticed it.

South Africa is an Eden for big-bike riders; I would pass dozens of BMW GSAs and Harleys as I covered the 310 miles from the Taj Cape Town hotel (a granite structure built in 1932 as a bank) to the coastal resort of Knysna. And the Roadmaster, with its tapered art deco lines and

gorgeous cherry-and-cream paint job, would draw double takes from most of the riders.

The original Indian Motorcycle Company, which was based in Springfield, Mass., built some of the most comfortable and attractive bikes of its day before shuttering in 1953. The brand went through a series of resurrections and owners until 2011, when it was acquired by Polaris Industries, which is the parent company of Victory Motorcycles. Polaris relaunched the Indian marque in 2013 with the Chief standard model and the Chieftain bagger.

The Roadmaster, which was developed before the Chieftain but introduced after it, in 2014, includes such additional features as the aforementioned heated seats, a trunk, front fairing lowers, heated grips, LED

headlights, passenger floorboards, and a rear tip-over bar. Priced at just under \$27,000, the Roadmaster is the flagship of Indian's retro-looking lineup, offering eye-catching looks and enough comfort to stake a claim as the ultimate long-distance tourer.

This baby rhino of a bike continued to lap up the miles on the coastal highway before reaching the Phantom Forest Eco-Reserve outside of Knysna in time for sundown. The lodge was named Africa's Leading Green Hotel by the World Travel Awards three straight years, from 2010 through 2012. It overlooks the Knysna River Estuary, which is home to fish eagles and the endangered Knysna seahorse. The property's suites are set in a forest of gnarled trees, on slopes that are often steeped in mist.

Vervet monkeys scampered across my suite's roof and trailed me to the hotel's lantern-lit restaurant. The restaurant's rustic appearance is not indicative of the menu. A dinner can include Moroccan-spiced ostrich carpaccio with griddled eggplant, and a pistachio-chocolate tartlet with pomegranate-white-chocolate sauce. The menu exemplifies what Phantom Forest chef Robyn Stein calls South Africa's "rainbow cuisine," which combines local produce with multicultural "creativity and sensation."

From Phantom Forest I headed east toward Port Elizabeth on the Garden Route—the scenic stretches of the N2 and other roads that run from Mossel Bay in the Western Cape province to the Storms River at the western edge of the Eastern Cape province. In this wilderness of dense subtropical thicket, there is not a town for miles, and service stations are as rare as the Knysna seahorse. The Roadmaster, which is equipped with a 5-gallon tank and has a 185-mile range, was cruising on fumes before reaching a fuel stop outside of Humansdorp, a small town at the west end of the Eastern Cape.

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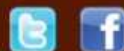
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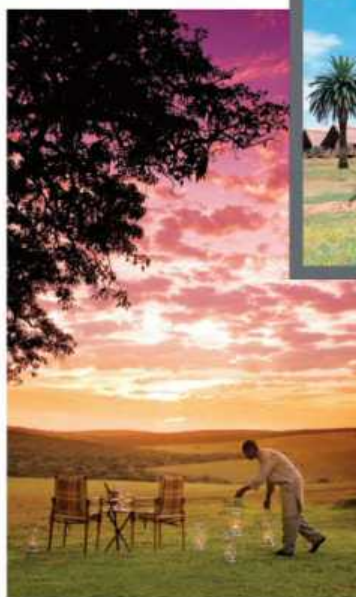
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Beautiful sunsets and majestic pachyderms were among the sights at the Gorah Elephant Camp in Addo Elephant National Park.



The next stop was the Gorah Elephant Camp, a Hunter Hotels property in Addo Elephant National Park that houses guests in 11 tented suites. The park covers 447,000 acres of wilderness, making it South Africa's third largest. It is also home to one of the world's densest populations of pachyderms.

Near the beginning of the dusty dirt road that leads to Gorah, a tusker lumbered out of the bush. While I cast a long stare sideways at the elephant, the Roadmaster's front tire dug at a rut—a jolting reminder that this bike is not designed for off-roading. When



a warthog dashed across my path, I felt a rush of adrenaline—or maybe panic—and wondered whether the Roadmaster's torquey V-twin would do the job if I needed to outrun a lion.

MOTORCYCLES ARE not allowed at Gorah, so I parked the bike at the entrance and traveled by 4x4 to the camp's main lodge. The former Victorian farmstead is extravagantly appointed with animal heads and antiques; hartebeests and eland graze in the meadows beyond the lodge's columned veranda. As I settled into a leather sofa with a glass of wine in hand, a flock of ostriches strutted past.

The camp's suites sit on stilts around the lodge, connected to it by a boardwalk. Their glazed hardwood floors are raised high enough to keep guests safe from the wildlife roaming the grounds.

At sunrise the next day, the phone rang. Werner Le Roux, the camp's

safari guide, was on the line. "Good morning," he said. "This is your morning safari wake-up call." Minutes later the phone rang again. "Please stay inside your tent," Le Roux said. "Three hyenas have been spotted heading your way." I peeled back my curtain, and sure enough, there were the hyenas, hunched and menacing, creeping past my front door.

After the hyenas had departed and it was safe to leave my tent, I heard a ghastly growl coming from somewhere—I could not pinpoint the direction or the distance. The gravelly moan sounded like rolling thunder. My nerves tingled as I hurried down the boardwalk to the lodge, and there I saw the source of the sound: A lioness was having a drink at the watering hole.

TWO DAYS AFTER arriving at Gorah, I was back on the bike, bound for the Great Fish River Lodge, which sits atop a high riverbank in the Kwandwe Private Game Reserve. I followed the 4x4 that met me at the reserve's entrance, running the Roadmaster hard in the other vehicle's dusty wake and passing a menagerie of Africa's finest along the corrugated dirt road to the lodge.

"Are there lions?" I asked when I arrived.

"Oh, yes! Of course," I was told. "That's why we escorted you with the jeep."

Thankfully I was in one of the lodge's safari vehicles—and not on the Roadmaster—the next day when we came upon two lionesses hidden in the shade on the road. Later in our drive, at sunset, we received a call alerting us to a lion kill. As I watched three giant cats tear apart an eland under a bloodstained sky, I considered how, mounted on my Roadmaster, I could be mistaken for an antelope.

I could not shake that thought when the road to the Bucklands Private Game Reserve brought me to a huge metal gate and a tall, electrified fence

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that looked like it came from a *Jurassic Park* film. Just past the entry to the reserve was a sign that read: "Warning! Wild animals crossing and no fence."

"We get motorcycles here all the time," the property's co-owner, Michele Stewart, had informed me.

She could not have been speaking of tourers, because beyond the gate, the track was not suited to big bikes such as the Roadmaster. The sharp incline had me sweating with mental exertion as I feathered the throttle and clutch to maintain forward momentum while bouncing over gullies and

clawing over rocky outcrops and ledges. Surprisingly, the bike's suspension soaked it all up.

Stewart told me she feels sentimental about the antelope that inhabit the property. She even gives them names. Hence, the reserve's wildlife does not include lions.



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THE FOLLOWING DAY brought a 385-mile ride—and rain. The route passed through Oudtshoorn, known as "the ostrich capital of the world." Thousands of the birds appeared, looking bedraggled and wet. I, on the other hand, was protected from the elements by the Roadmaster's full fairing, leg guards, and electronic windshield, which can be raised or lowered with a fingertip switch.

The landscape continually changed as the R62 and R43 unfurled westward. An open-throttle ride led across a desert, then through mountain passes, and then past turquoise lakes. Beyond the town of Villiersdorp, the road snaked dizzily up through the whiskey-brown crags of the Drakenstein Mountains, then corkscrewed down through Franschoek Pass to the Cape Winelands, a destination known for fine dining, boutique hotels, and gleaming white Cape Dutch buildings.

The next morning, as dawn sunlight flooded the valley, I put the Roadmaster in motion and savored the growl of its engine on the trip back to cloud-draped Cape Town to close the loop and conclude the adventure. 

Bucklands Private Game Reserve, bucklandsreserve.co.za; **Gorah Elephant Camp**, gorah.hunterhotels.com; **Indian Motorcycle**, indianmotorcycle.com; **Kwandwe Private Game Reserve (Great Fish River Lodge)**, kwandwe.com; **Phantom Forest Eco-Reserve**, phantomforest.com; **Taj Cape Town**, tajcapetown.co.za



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Robb Report is pleased to announce the fourth annual Culinary Masters Competition and this year's panel of celebrated master chefs and their nominees. Each master chef—John Besh, Curtis Duffy, Christopher Kostow, Barbara Lynch, Norman Van Aken, and Michael White—represents a region across the United States and has nominated an up-and-coming chef doing groundbreaking work in the style of that region.

These emerging culinary artists—Justin Devillier, Lee Wolen, Kim Floresca and Daniel Ryan, Patrick Campbell, Phil Bryant, and John Becker—are set to prepare a series of six competition dinners, which will be judged by an exclusive group of *Robb Report* readers and editors. All proceeds from the competition will be donated to charities chosen by the master chefs. And in January, we will share the exciting results: the winner of the competition, *Robb Report*'s New Culinary Master for 2016. ✨



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Tribute to a Tastemaker

A HOUSTON COLLECTOR PAYS HOMAGE TO THE WINES OF COLGIN CELLARS WITH A RETROSPECTIVE TASTING OF THE NAPA VALLEY WINERY'S REMARKABLE RELEASES. **BY DENMAN MOODY**

Clockwise from top: Colgin Cellars' IX Estate; (from left) Gina and Devinder Bhatia, Joe Wender, Ann Colgin, and the author; the history of Colgin uncorked.

IN THE RAREFIED realms where the planet's finest wines are poured, at least five labels from California's Napa Valley must take their rightful places alongside those designated as First Growths by the Bordeaux Wine Official Classification of 1855—and one of these New World wonders is Colgin Cellars.

This important red-wine producer traces its beginnings to 1992, when Ann Colgin, who worked in the fine-arts departments at both Christie's and Sotheby's, met the esteemed winemaker Helen Turley, whom she subsequently enlisted to make a wine for her with predominantly Cabernet Sauvignon grapes contracted from the Herb Lamb Vineyard, located on a ridge facing Howell Mountain. The result of this collaboration astounded critics. Thus encouraged, Colgin expanded her portfolio and adopted the Burgundian practice of precisely expressing the distinctive terroirs of multiple sites.

Although Colgin made her Herb Lamb Cabernet Sauvignon only until 2007, four other reds continue to hold the critical spotlight. In the mid '90s, Colgin was able to purchase a historic vineyard site just north of St. Helena that became the basis for the Colgin Tychson Hill Cabernet, a blend of 90 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and small quantities of Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc that debuted in 2002 with the 2000 vintage. Cariad—a Bordeaux-style blend from multiple sources whose name is the Welsh word for “love”—originated in 1999 with a long-term contract for Cabernet Sauvignon from the famed Madrona Ranch, owned by viticulturist extraordinaire David Abreu. The third and fourth wines are from IX Estate, an otherworldly 125-acre property near Lake Hennessey that Colgin and her husband, Joe Wender, purchased and that Robert M. Parker Jr. considers “as close to a viticultural nirvana as I’ve ever seen.” One of the wines from this site is Cabernet Sauvignon based; the other is a 100 percent Syrah inspired by Colgin’s love for the great wines of the northern Rhône. For that project, she was able to acquire cuttings from famed vineyards in Côte-Rôtie and Hermitage, as well as a great California heritage clone.

This relatively brief yet incomparable history served as the subject of a gathering that occurred in Houston on February 6 and 7, 2015, when around 30 oenophiles attended a dinner and luncheon at RDG Restaurant. The food on these two intimate occasions was personally prepared by the owner and chef, Robert Del Grande—a James Beard Award winner who also holds a doctorate in biochemistry—and carefully paired with an unprecedented 47 bottles of Colgin wine. These were poured in tranches of four to six vintages with each of Del Grande’s myriad courses over the two days. This tasting experience was made possible

by the generosity of the Houston heart surgeon Devinder Bhatia and his philanthropist wife, Gina, who purchased almost every wine directly from Colgin Cellars and stored them in their pristine private cellar.

At the February 6 session, the Bhatias, Colgin, Wender, and Colgin Cellars’ chief operating officer,

master sommelier Paul Roberts—whose résumé includes stints as director of wine at Bond, the French Laundry, and RDG—greeted attendees. The dinner’s courses were chosen by Roberts and Del Grande to complement the wines and emphasize the unique character of each vineyard and vintage. The two decided to



DAY ONE

SEQUENCE 1: JUXTAPOSITION

SEA SCALLOPS AND
FAVA-BEAN PUREE WITH
PAN-ROASTED GRAPE
TOMATOES AND
ANCHOVY BROTH

All Herb Lamb Vineyard: 1993 Considered a sleeper since its inception, a “Grace Kelly” kind of wine. **2003** Symmetry with power. **2004** Supple despite two-week extreme heat spike. **2006** Perfume, fresh with minerality.

SEQUENCE 2: PERFUME

PRESSED RABBIT SALAD
WITH AROMATIC FIG
PASTE AND FRAGRANT
PUMPKIN-SEED
DRESSING

All Tychson Hill Vineyard: 2003 Leather, texture, balance. **2005** Deep purple color, sandalwood. **2006** Dark fruits, mouthwatering. **2009** Youthful, rich, chocolate-covered cherries. **2010** Big, delicious, polished.

SEQUENCE 3: SAVORY

GUINEA FOWL WITH
HUTLACOCHE AND
CASHW MOLE,
TOASTED HOMINY, AND
COTIJA CHEESE

Tychson Hill Vineyard: 2002 Perfect balance, enveloping. **Cariad: 2002** Château Margaux-like perfume. **2005** Exotic with blackberries and minerality. **IX Estate: 2002** Youthful, great extraction, silky tannins. **2005** Near-perfect balance of all components. **2011** Great success for a not-so-well-received vintage. (Spottswode and Quintessa are the only two 2011s I have tasted that approach the quality of Colgin.)

SEQUENCE 4: POWER

WOOD-GRILLED
NEW YORK STEAK
WITH CHARRED
AVOCADO SALSA, BEEF
CRACKLINGS, AND
GUAJILLO SAUCE

Cariad: 2004 Dark, subdued, elegant. **2007** Little brother to Château Latour 1961. **IX Estate: 2003** Precocious, lovely. **2004** Born for the steak served, perfectly integrated tannins and oak. **2007** A replica of the heralded B.V. 1968 Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon tasted from the mid 1970s to the early '80s.

SEQUENCE 5: ETHEREAL

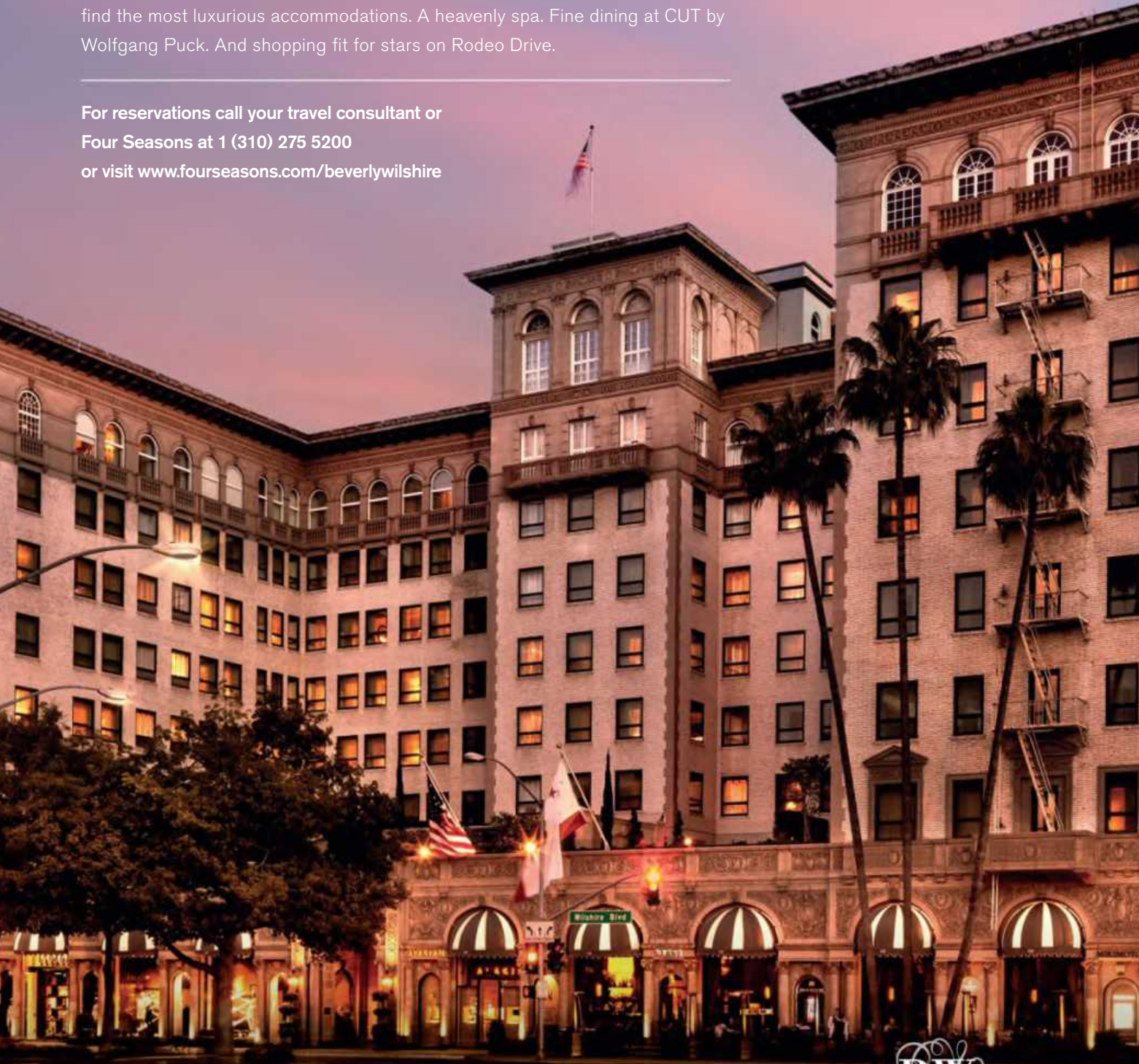
PORK RIBS IN BANANA
LEAF WITH ROASTED
PINK GRAPEFRUIT AND
COCOA NIBS

All IX Estate Syrah: 2003 Floral—Hermitage with a New World aroma. **2005** Impressive tannic structure, peppery, bold fruit. **2006** Anise with red and black fruits, balanced. **2010** Perfume, sexy, only non-Cabernet Sauvignon-based wine from Napa Valley to receive a perfect 100 from Robert M. Parker. **2011** Classic beauty.

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eschew presenting the wines as straight verticals, as inevitably some softer vintages do not show well when placed next to bolder ones. Instead, they created sequences of four to six wines that were labeled according to their similar traits. Using my notes and freely borrowing from the discussions and notes of Paul Roberts and others, I offer in the accompanying charts a brief commentary on each flight.

My scores for the first two flights of day one (see chart, page 280) were outstanding—though they were the lowest of the 10 listed here from the two-day tasting. The wines, all of similar quality, averaged 93 to 94 points. The next eight flights, however,

demonstrated the height of Colgin Cellars' art, achieving an average score of over 97 points, with almost half scoring between 98 and 100.

On the second day (see chart below), the epic epicurean experience continued with five more exceptional courses accompanied by sequences of overwhelmingly beautiful wines. Few wineries other than Colgin can release offerings year in and year out that consistently score in the 95–100 range, as those in the following flights in fact did.

One of the guests, John Kapon—CEO of Acker Merrall & Condit, the wine-auction specialist—summed up the attendees' consensus on the second five flights, noting that these

are serious wines that compete on a global scale and that the word *minerality*, seldom used in connection with California wines, certainly applies here. Although these wines are approachable, he added, they are not obvious: They make you think. "The 2010 Cariad," he said, "is still in a cocoon: lots of pleasure despite its youth. The 2010 IX Estate is more animal, with richness and ripeness."

Indeed, Colgin Cellars' exquisite wines are—to paraphrase Kapon—not only approachable and beguiling but also confident, warm, and inviting: in short, apposite reflections of their makers. **R**

Colgin Cellars, colgincellars.com



DAY TWO

SEQUENCE 1: THE BEGINNING, THE MIDDLE, AND THE END

STEAK TARTARE WITH LOBSTER,
LOBSTER ASPIC, AND EGG-
YOLK SABAYON

All Herb Lamb: 1992 Tiny production from only 4-year-old vines, unexpected beauty and balance. **1994** Perfume, integrated, all components neatly gathered and ready—one sip begs for another. **1997** Still slightly unyielding, which bodes well for this wine's continuing development in the cellar. **2002** Seductive and beguiling, similar to a Chateau Margaux 1961 I tasted in 1981 and gave a perfect score. **2007** Complete!

SEQUENCE 2: TEXTURE

SALMON AND CRISP BARBECUED
SASHIMI WITH MACERATED AND
AROMATIZED BLACK OLIVES

Tychson Hill Vineyard: 2004 Weight, texture, and a lengthy finish. **2007** Blackberries and tender tannins, almost perfect. **Cariad: 2009** Another almost-perfect wine, deep purple and velvet, reminiscent of a Chateau Margaux 1983 I tasted in 1987. **IX Estate: 2009** Perfection!

SEQUENCE 3: STRUCTURE

DUCK WITH SALT-ROASTED BEETS
AND COCOA NIBS WITH
HIBISCUS SAUCE

Tychson Hill Vineyard: 2008 Unusually bright fruit, lushness, and minerality, my second favorite of the flight. **Cariad: 2003** Chateau Margaux with some jam-like character. **2008** Lovely fruit and a hint of spice, noticeable tannin (along with good acidity), which promises further improvement with age. **IX Estate: 2008** Iron fist in a velvet glove, Rutherford dust, as well as a hint on the nose of the 8 percent of Cabernet Franc. Perfection!

SEQUENCE 4: MINERALITY

LAMB WITH CONFIT OF FENNEL,
SHALLOTS, AND PRUNES

Cariad: 2006 Black currants, gravel, somewhat reticent. **2010** Soaring towards 100, hedonistic. **IX Estate: 2006** Seductive, subdued fruit, wet stones, layers of flavors. **2010** Perfection!

SEQUENCE 5: SUCCULENCE

AROMATIC POACHED BACON WITH
SAVORY FIG JAM AND FRISÉE BEAN SALAD

All IX Estate Syrah: 2004 Elegant. **2007** Medium-rare sirloin-strip nose, pomegranate. **2009** Reminiscent of a top E. Guigal single-vineyard Côte-Rôtie.



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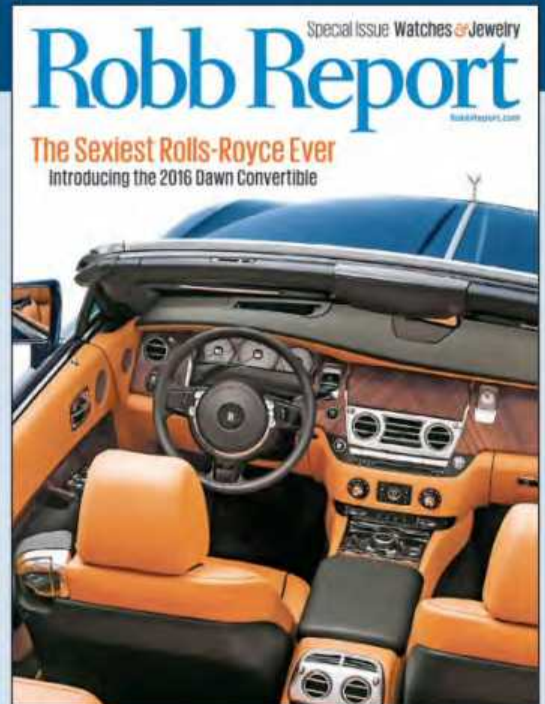
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R Of Note

From David Arnold,

Senior Vice President/Group Publisher
of *Robb Report*

HARRODS

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Harrods is delighted to announce the opening of Graff Diamonds' expanded location within The Fine Jewellery Room.

In November 2015 Graff will open the doors to its stunning new boutique, which has been relocated to a larger, enhanced space.

The impressive 1,242 square foot space has been created by Graff's in-house interior design team. It features a striking monochrome marble floor, while the walls of the boutique are clad with golden dichroic glass mirrors—beautifully complementing the rich tones of deep American walnut paneled walls towards the rear of the store.

Harrods



MICHTER'S DISTILLERY

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With a rich history tracing back to 1753, Michter's exemplifies the best in American whiskeys and is featured as one of *Robb Report's* 2014 Best of the Best. Michter's Master Distiller Willie Pratt, a.k.a. Dr. No for refusing to release any whiskey until he feels it's ready, has recently approved the first and only 2015 limited release of Michter's 10 Year-Old Single Barrel Bourbon. It will be available late fall/early winter 2015.



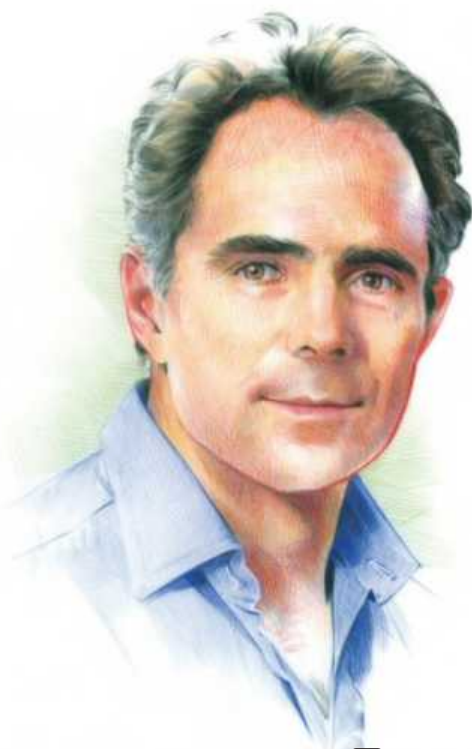
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Joss Kent

A CONVERSATION WITH THE WORLD
EXPLORER AND CONSERVATIONIST.

BORN INTO A legendary safari family in Kenya, Joss Kent knows well the world of adventure. After rising through the ranks of his father Geoffrey's tour company, *Abercrombie & Kent*, he left the family business in 2012 to become the CEO of *andBeyond*, an experiential travel company devoted to the conservation and preservation of Africa's wildlife and land. Last year, along with Dereck and Beverly Joubert of *Great Plains Conservation*, Kent launched *Rhinos Without Borders* (see "Above andBeyond," page 164), an ambitious initiative that aims to relocate 100 critically endangered rhinoceroses from high-poaching areas in South Africa to safer havens in Botswana. Robb Report recently caught up with the world traveler to talk rhinos, conservation, safaris, and his next big adventure. —IRENE RAWLINGS

Tell us about your childhood growing up in Nairobi.

I was born in Kenya, and we learned Swahili along with English. From a young boy's perspective, it was a lovely way to grow up. In some ways, it was a more innocent time. We had complete freedom. From the age of 10, my friends and I would get on our motorbikes and be gone all day exploring the Ngong Hills. We were expected to be home in time for dinner.

What is your most memorable childhood adventure?

There were a lot, obviously, given that my father founded *Abercrombie & Kent*. What sticks in my memory is when I was slightly older and my father was looking for places for A&K lodges. I was in school in England and got a note from the headmaster that I was going to Botswana, to the Okavango Delta. We went through the delta in boats, and I learned to shoot bows and arrows with the Bushmen. Another adventure that remains with me is a horseback-riding safari. In the delta in Botswana, I remember riding with a giraffe herd loping along beside me. Or maybe they were loping and I was riding along beside them.

And your most memorable adventure as an adult?

In 1997, after getting my MBA at Harvard and before I went back to A&K, I bought a Land Rover and decided to drive from London to Kenya. We traveled for three months. The journey we took went through Germany, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Italy, Greece, and then from Turkey into Syria. Then we went down through Jordan to Yemen's Hadramawt Valley, which is where Osama bin Laden was born. Part of our journey was on a cattle-smuggling boat. There was some danger, but I remember thinking at the time that we need to do this now, because we will not be able to see this for a long, long time.

What trips are you looking forward to?

I'd like to visit Colombia. Cartagena is a hot tourist destination, but much of Colombia is still very much untouched. I want to go to Cuba to see what's new. The last time I visited, more than 15 years ago, the only way in was by converted Russian military aircraft with Russian pilots and basic military seats. I want to explore the far reaches of Japan. I'm fascinated by the extremes of nature and wildlife. I'd like to take my three children to the American West—starting in Montana and working our way down to New Mexico.

Tell us about Rhinos Without Borders.

Every seven hours a rhino is killed. They are poached for their horns, which on the black market are worth more than gold. In a last, desperate attempt to create a breeding herd, we have entered into a joint partnership with *Great Plains [Conservation]*—under normal circumstances, they are our competition—to create *Rhinos Without Borders*. Together, we are moving rhinos from South Africa, where poaching is increasing at an alarming rate, to neighboring Botswana, which is known for its anti-poaching initiatives. The rhinos are put into crates and airlifted by the Botswana Defense Force into the Okavango Delta. It costs about \$50,000 to airlift a single animal. We've moved one group so far. It is a project of hope. **R**

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